Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you agree with the $250 million price tag set by lawmakers in the sale of CUC's power plants?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

7 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Milk Scandal
Authorities have detained six more people in China's contaminated milk scandal.
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Hero's Welcome
Michael Phelps was formally welcomed home in Baltimore with a two-pronged celebration.
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Cabs to reduce fare for DFS-bound passengers. **PAGE 3**
Senate eyes $1.7M reserve funds in budget. **PAGE 5**

Chinese tourists outraged after DEA body searches

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Nearly 200 Chinese tourists arriving on Shanghai Airlines' recently launched charter service to Saipan were outraged Saturday morning after security staff subjected many of them to body searches as part of an operation initiated by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Staff with a travel company, Century Tours, have reported that after one of the Shanghai-to-Saipan flights touched down around 2am Saturday, customs agents corralled scores of passengers one

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CUC emergency extended anew

It's very transparent. That way we make sure we control the situation, so there are no abuses.
— Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

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Latest emergency declaration one of many. **PAGE 2**

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial extended yesterday the state of disaster emergency for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for 30 more days, adding stipulations after members of the Legislature questioned some of the procurement policies used in obtaining the Aggreko generators.

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CUC *did not obtain federal permits for rented engines*

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Projection Agency is looking into whether the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. failed to follow regulations by not obtaining an air quality permit before installing the emergency Aggreko generators.

Dean Higuchi, spokesman for EPA's Hawaii and Pacific region, said the agency is still

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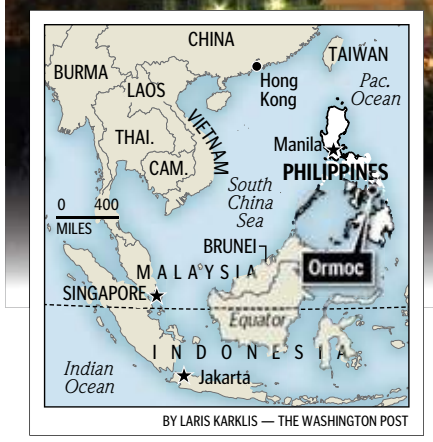
CUC crew hook up the Aggreko generators in this file photo.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Filipinos draw power from buried heat

Powering the Philippines on geothermal energy



BY LARIS KARKLIS — THE WASHINGTON POST

By BLAINE HARDEN
WASHINGTON POST FOREIGN SERVICE

ORMOC, Philippines—Ferdinand Marcos, the despot who ruled here for 21 years, is remembered mainly for the staggering quantity of his wife's shoes. But there is another Marcos legacy, and it is drawing new attention at a time of high oil prices, global warming and urgent questions about the role of government in alternative energy development.

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THE WASHINGTON POST
The main geothermal plant on Leyte Island in the Philippines. Geothermal now produces about 28 percent of the electricity generated in the country.

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Local

Latest emergency declaration one of many

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Since Gov. Benigno Fitial assumed office in January 2006, he has declared or extended more than a dozen states of emergency for government agencies.

The CNMI is currently under three states of emergency: one for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. (***see related story on front page***), one for the lack of a full-time pharmacist at the Commonwealth Health Center, and one for the island of Anatahan, which experienced a volcanic eruption in 2003.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said each of the executive orders have been necessary under the circumstances.

"The Governor would rather not have to declare such emergencies or invoke his constitutional powers so often, but the situation demands it. The architects of our Constitution contemplated such emergency situations and empowered the Governor to take extraordinary actions to meet crisis situations of this kind," he said.

During Fitial's nearly three years in office, CUC has been under a disaster emergency on three separate occasions, adding up to more than nine months.

Three declarations

On Jan. 27, 2006, Fitial declared CUC under a state of emergency because the utility company could not provide reliable power and it was experiencing financial woes.

In December 2007, acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez declared CUC in a state of disaster because of the corporation's inability to purchase fuel for power generation. That declaration allowed the governor to assume full control of CUC and suspend all regulatory statute provisions and regulations applicable to the utility company Under the declaration, which lasted three months, the governor also had to the power to reprogram all available funds to address CUC's problems.

CUC's most recent state of emergency was declared Aug. 1, after Fitial determined CUC 's power plant was in such a state of disrepair that a "catastrophic failure" could occur, maiming or killing CUC power plant workers. The executive order suspended procurement, safety, environment and other regulations, speeding up the installation of the emergency Aggreko generators. The declaration was extended for the second time yesterday.

CPA emergency

In May, Fitial placed the Commonwealth Ports Authority under a state of emergency to deflect any legal issues that might arise from his takeover of the autonomous agency. The emergency was lifted in September when the Senate confirmed enough new members to CPA's board of directors to meet quorum requirements.

A bill seeking to limit a governor's power to declare a state of emergency due to an agency's financial crisis or hardship is currently in the House of Representatives.

Since May 2003, the island of Anatahan has been under a continuous state of emergency because of volcanic eruptions and seismic phenomena, making it unsafe for human habitation.

Typhoon disasters

These emergency declarations do not include two others declared by Tinian Mayor Jose San Nicolas to expedite the repair of the island's dilapidated harbor and the transfer of its existing landfill to another site.

While Gov. Juan Babauta, Fitial's predecessor, was in office, he placed CUC under a state of emergency for seven months, due to its inability to provide reliable power and financial issues.

He also declared the CNMI a state of disaster on three separate occasions due to typhoons. President Bush declared federal emergency states of disaster four times during Babauta's administration.

Sex offender nabbed for alleged assault

A registered CNMI sex offender was arrested in Garapan Friday night on charges that he touched a court employee's butt while at a waiting line at the cashier counter in the Judicial Complex.

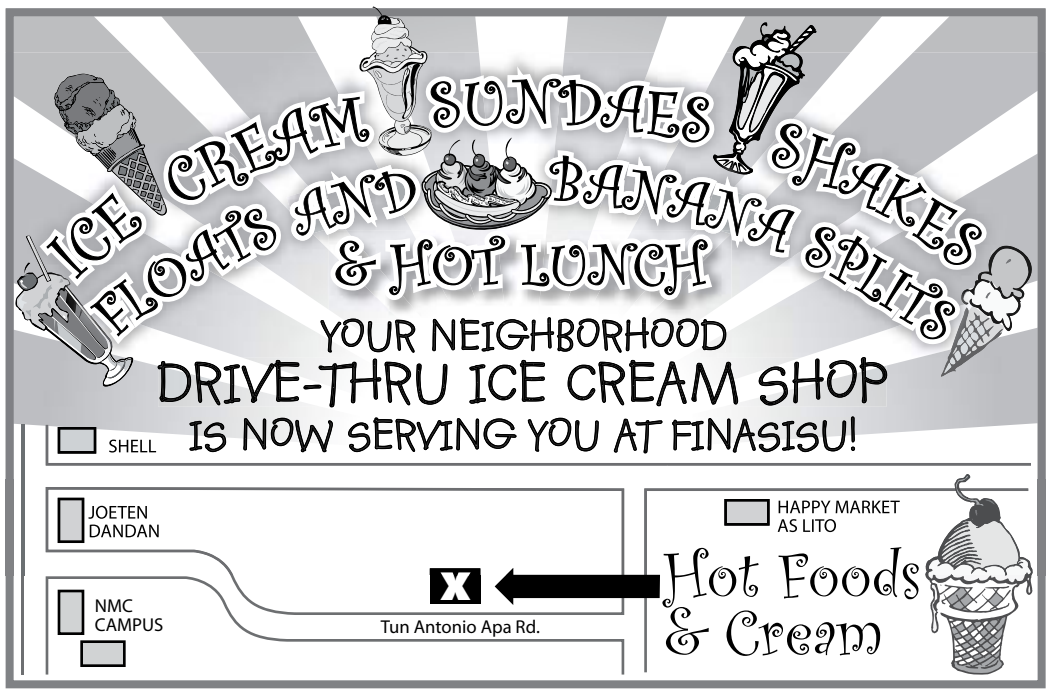
Mino Ansa Phillip, 32, was arrested for multiple counts of assault and battery (sexual assault), contempt of court, and disturbing the peace.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a $1,000 cash bail for Phillip's temporary liberty. Preliminary hearing was set for Oct. 15 and arraignment for Oct. 20. The Public Defender's Office was appointed to represent the defendant.

Detective Kelly Ignacio N. Camacho stated in his report that on Aug. 27, 2008, at 9:32am, a probation officer called police and reported that a probationer was drunk and disturbing other people in the courthouse.

Camacho said preliminary investigation showed that Phillip had proceeded immediately to the front of the line when he went to the cashier to pay his bill. The cashier, who detected a strong odor of alcohol on Phillip, instructed him to proceed to the back of the line. Phillip did so and came behind a female court employee, who alleged that the suspect touched her left butt cheek. The court staff confronted Phillip for touching her.

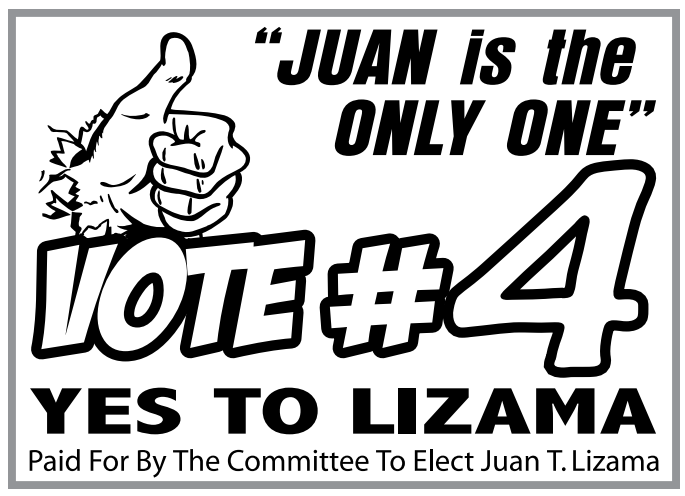
The incident prompted the cashier to call court marshals Jesse Santos and J.K. Atalig, who escorted Phillip to the Adult Probation Office. A police officer came and arrested Phillip. A breathalyzer test indicated that the defendant's blood alcohol level was beyond the legal limit. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



CNMI Newborn Hearing Screening Program

Hearing loss is found in about one in every 300 babies born. Although a baby may startle to loud noises, they may not hear the softer sounds needed for speech and language development. Your baby should have had a hearing test before leaving the hospital. If your baby needs follow up, schedule your appointment right away.

Follow up testing is FREE! Call CHC at 236-8709



PUBLIC PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

for the Week of October 6, 2008

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
6:00pm	6:00pm	6:00pm
Concept Overview	Concept Overview	Economic Study

Presentations are open to the public and anyone interested in learning more is invited to attend.
No reservations required.
We are located at the JT Guerrero building in Garapan next to Asia Scooter Rentals.
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For more information, call 234-2665.

WEAR **ORANGE** IF YOU SUPPORT THE MONUMENT

Cabs to reduce DFS-bound fares

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Taxi drivers are rallying to support DFS Saipan with a plan to lower fares for customers in need of a ride to its Garapan shopping complex after economic troubles forced the company last month to drop a program that gave them a commission for giving its customers a lift.

In an interview Monday, Rabby Syed, president of the Saipan City Taxi Association, said the organization's members and some affiliated drivers plan to reduce fares to DFS by 50 percent on trips that cost more than $5. The rate change applies on fares from 10am to 10:30pm, he said.

"With this experiment, we want to see how this makes a difference in our industry," Syed said. "We're trying to support our industry, support the DFS enterprise and work together to make a difference."

By drawing more customers to DFS, Syed said taxi drivers are hoping to give the shopping center a financial boost that could help it cope with the CNMI's economic downturn.

DFS last month announced in a memo to taxi drivers that due to the "continuing decline of our island's economy" it had to suspend a program that gave them a commission for driving customers to the shopping center. This cost-cutting measure has taken a severe toll on the income of many cab drivers. According to Syed, some of them had relied on the DFS commissions for 90 percent of their revenue.

"We're seeing that it's having a very big impact on our taxi industry," he said. "We cannot get the revenue we once saw. At the same time, we also understand DFS's position."

With the new price plan for fares to DFS, Syed noted that, for example, a ride there from the Pacific Islands Club, now a $20 trip, would cost $10, a price that could prove more affordable than one from any of the scores of black market taxis that operate on Saipan.

"Our taxis can carry four people, so that's $2.50 per person," he said. "The illegal taxis charges $3, so that becomes a little cheaper."

Pension obligation bonds eyed to resolve Fund's unfunded liability

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has urged the Legislature to endorse a constitutional change allowing the CNMI government to issue pension obligation bonds to reduce its debt to the NMI Retirement Fund.

Fitial said the bonds can serve "as a necessary and significant means of closing an unfunded pension liability gap."

As of Sept. 30, 2007, the CNMI government owed the pension program over $132 million in employer contributions, excluding penalties and interest.

Senate legislative initiative 16-10 proposes to authorize the government to borrow money to pay for the unfunded liability. The initiative has cleared the Upper House, and is awaiting action in the House of Representatives, where it must obtain a three-fourths vote. Once approved by both houses, the proposed constitutional amendment could be placed on the ballot for ratification in 2009 at the earliest.

In a letter to Senate President Pete P. Reyes and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, Fitial cited two measures now in place to support the Retirement Fund—first, the creation of the Defined Contribution Plan, and second, the Defined Benefit Plan Reform Act.

Citing a report by the Fund's actuarial consultant, the governor said these two measures reduced the Fund's projected accrued liability in 2045 from $2.8 billion to a post-reform $607 million—a 78 percent decrease.

"Pension obligation bond financing will serve as an important third reform for the CNMI pension program," Fitial said. "When worldwide bond market conditions stabilize and the conditions for borrowing improve, the Commonwealth needs the ability to enter the bond market and reduce its unfunded pension liability through POB financing."

He also noted that the CNMI is not alone in issuing pension obligation bonds. Puerto Rico, and the states of Illinois, Wisconsin, and Oregon have taken steps to issue or have issued POBs in billions of dollars over the last five years.

In addition to the pension obligation bonds, Fitial urged the Legislature to approve two House bills designed the streamline the NMI Retirement Fund. House Bill 16-138 seeks to transfer the administrative functions of the Workers Compensation Commission to the Department of Commerce. House Bill 16-139 proposes the transfer of the administrative functions of the privatized government health and life insurance program to the Department of Finance.

Fitial said he agrees with the Fund board of trustees that both programs no longer belong in the Fund.

At present, the Fund's board of trustees also serves as the board of the GHLI Program and for WCC.

Fitial appoints 2 to Cabinet

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has announced the appointments of two new Cabinet members.

Joaquin Omar was named to serve as the new special assistant for administration for the Emergency Management Office. He replaces Mark Pangelinan, who previously served in an acting capacity and who is currently on extended leave.

Omar is the former director of the Legislative Bureau. His contract expired last Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2008.

Fitial also appointed Rose Ada-Hocog as the special assistant for programs and legislative review. Ada-Hocog replaces Linda Cabrera, who left the office to fill a position at the Commerce Department.

Ada-Hocog has held several positions in the CNMI government, including spokesperson for the Department of Public Safety, administrator of the Department of Labor's Hearing Office, and most recently, as a staff member at the SAP-LR Office.

In 2007, Ada-Hocog ran for the House of Representatives under Fitial's party, the Covenant Party. She is the secretary of a newly formed local citizen group called the "NMI Indigenous Descents for Self-Government & Indigenous Rights," which backs the lawsuit filed by Fitial against the U.S. government to block the pending federal takeover of local immigration. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

FILIPINOS

From Page 1

Reacting to the early 1970s oil shock, Marcos created a major government program to find, develop and generate electricity from hot rocks deep in the ground. Since then, the Philippine government has championed this form of energy.

Geothermal power now accounts for about 28 percent of the electricity generated in the Philippines. With 90 million people, about 40 percent of whom live on less than $2 a day, this country has become the world's largest consumer of electricity from geothermal sources. Billions of dollars have been saved here because of reduced need for imported oil and coal.

"Goes to show that things aren't always the way we might expect," said Roland N. Horne, a Stanford University expert on geothermal power who has visited this country more than 20 times. "The Philippines would be in hugely worse shape without geothermal as an indigenous energy source."

In installed geothermal power capacity, the country ranks No. 2 in the world, narrowly trailing the United States, which has far more geothermal potential, far more engineering talent and far greater demand for clean sustainable power.

But unlike in the Philippines, government policy in the United States has been inconsistent. In 2006, the Bush administration cut most geothermal spending—federal programs that received as much as $100 million a year in the 1980s shrank to $5 million. Research projects were dismantled. Scientists in the field had to find other jobs.

"Most of the federal infrastructure, the laboratories and the researchers are now gone," said Karl Gawell, executive director of the Geothermal Energy Association in Washington.

As oil and coal prices soared in the past year, and as popular demand increased for alternative energy sources, the Bush administration rediscovered geothermal. It has proposed spending $90 million over three years on research.

"That's the goods news, but the bad news is that we are going to have to relearn a lot of what the people who we just let go learned over the past 20 years," Gawell said. "The problem with our government's approach to alternative energy is that it is too short-term. You need a sustained commitment to reach this huge energy base."

At early stages of development, geothermal energy has historically been dependent in most countries on high-risk, long-term investment made by governments, not private companies.

While Sen. John McCain, the Republican presidential nominee, has said little about geothermal energy, Sen. Barack Obama, his Democratic opponent, has said renewable energy—which includes wind, solar and geothermal—should generate 10 percent of the country's electricity within four years.

The figure now is about 4 percent, of which less than 1 percent is geothermal. But geothermal offers reliability advantages over solar and wind, mostly because geothermal fields do not stop producing power at night or when the wind stops blowing.

In a report released this week, the U.S. Geological Survey reassessed the potential for this kind of energy in the United States. It examined 13 Western states, from California to Colorado, Washington to New Mexico, that sit atop a hot geologic zone that is often called the Pacific Ring of Fire. It encircles the Pacific Ocean and includes the Philippines, as well as Indonesia, Japan and several other countries in East Asia.

In the American West, power production from already identified geothermal fields could increase more than 2 1/2 times, the report said.

But new geothermal technology—which injects water into fractured rock to mine heat—raises the possibility that small geothermal power plants could be built all over the West. If this technology continues to advance, the Geological Survey report said, there is enough accessible public and private land in the 13 Western states to supply about half the electricity now generated in the United States.

"Geothermal resources have the potential to play a much more significant role in our nation's energy mix," the report concluded.

Nature's Perfect Design

For nearly three decades, the Philippine government has been acting on a similar assumption, despite revolutions and widespread corruption.

The showcase for its long-term commitment is here on the rural island of Leyte, where a government-created company, now privatized, has carefully transformed a vast geothermal field into the linchpin of the country's electricity grid.

The Leyte field, as engineers describe it, is one of nature's most perfectly designed geothermal resources. Located about 1 1/2 miles underground, it is a great pot of boiling water that covers about 416 square miles.

Molten rock heats the pot but is kept separate from the boiling water by a thick layer of impermeable rock. The pot's lid is made of a much softer, more porous rock, which is easy to drill down through. About 90 wells bring up steamy water to run turbines.

Thirty-two re-injection wells shoot cooler water back into the pot to be heated and repeat the cycle. Water filtering down naturally through a mountainous rain forest atop the reservoir also recharges it.

"Leyte is very blessed in the sense that the resource is not common to any other part of the world," said Ruperto R. Villa Jr., a geothermal engineer and a longtime supervisor here.

Villa and other engineers here have made the most of their natural blessings, inventing the world's first large-scale re-injection system. After 25 years of operation, this system has conserved nearly all of the field's heat and steam pressure. Experts say Leyte, if it continues to be well managed, should produce electricity for centuries.

"Once the Philippines government gave its edict to develop geothermal, it was implemented with good management and intelligent engineering," said Horne, the Stanford professor who has traveled often to the Philippines.

A Wild West Show

The United States has the world's largest geothermal resource, the Geysers, 72 miles north of San Francisco. But it has not been nearly as well managed as Leyte, according to Horne and other experts.

From the 1960s to the early 1980s, the Geysers was a kind of Wild West show of multiple owners racing to tap steam before the others did. Lacking federal or state regulation, the Geysers spawned 15 years of lawsuits among the owners. Consolidation of ownership and tighter regulation have since resolved many of the problems, but not before the sustainable power-generating capacity of the field was reduced.

"What happened in the Geysers did not happen in Leyte because of better regulation and central control of management," Horne said.

But experts say the future of geothermal development in the United States depends not on giant sites such as the Geysers but on smaller fields, to be tapped using nontraditional technology that injects water into hot fractured rock and powers turbines with the resulting steam. Creating that technology will require $1 billion of consistent public investment over 15 years, according to a study this year that was commissioned by the Energy Department.

"We have seen something of a turnaround in federal interest in geothermal," said Gawell, of the Geothermal Energy Association. "But companies and investors still don't trust that it will last. There is a lack of confidence that the government is not going to once again turn its back on geothermal."

PERMITS

From Page 1

gathering information because they were not aware of the situation until last week. EPA is working with CUC and the CNMI government to try to come to a resolution, he said.

"We're trying to speed it up. We're trying to get information as quick[ly] as possible," he said. "Energy is crucial to not only lights but to infrastructure," he said, adding that the CNMI is experiencing a unique situation.

Gov. Benigno Fitial's declaration of a state of disaster emergency for CUC suspended local environmental regulations but not federal, Reina Camacho, spokeswoman for the Division of Environmental Quality, said yesterday.

"CUC, as a major source generator, is required to submit an application to DEQ prior to commencing activities. However, the governor's declaration of emergency allows for the exemption of local regulations," she said in a statement. "EPA can choose to exercise its authority to require CUC to submit for a permit."

Camacho said DEQ has been in contact with CUC, explaining the requirements for a permit and the need for a compliance plan.

In yesterday's declaration of a state of disaster emergency, Fitial said CUC desires to comply with environmental and land regulations, but "fears that the lack of permits or permitting process would postpone or eliminate" uninterrupted service. He has directed CUC within 30 days to provide him in writing its plan for compliance and a copy of each agency's permits or an explanation why compliance has not been met and how it will be met.

Higuchi said he would not speculate at this time about what would happen if it were determined federal regulations were not followed.

The agency wants to work with CUC and the CNMI to see if they need anything from EPA, Higuchi added.

CUC executive director Antonio Muña referred questions to DEQ.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said he would have to discuss the situation with the administration's lawyers, because Muña was dealing with regulations.

"Whatever regulations are required, we will eventually work toward compliance," he said. "We don't want to be stuck until all the 'i's are dotted and all the 't's crossed because, if that's the case, we would be back on a daily outage schedule and that's unreasonable."

"If [the emergency declaration] does not trump federal law, we will have to look toward complying with EPA," he added.

Reyes said he hopes EPA will work with CUC and the government to reach a solution that will allow the CNMI to maintain 24-hour power.

"They could come in and shut us down and issue an order and we'll be back in the dark," he said. "I don't know if they'll want to do that. Hopefully they would want to work with us and our limited resources."

CHINESE

From Page 1

by one into a private room where they received an intensive body search that included their "private parts" and every piece of checked and carry-on luggage. The searches resulted in a three-and-a-half-hour delay upon their arrival and angered many.

"Some of the tourists were yelling at our tour guides as soon as they came outside of the arrival area with comments like 'What kind of place is this! I will never come here again!'" a Century Tours staffer said. "One lady told me that they even reached 'inside my hair, look at my hair now,' which was messy. Most of the tourists were scared and wanted to know why they were being disrespected by the customs agents."

In an interview Monday, DEA agent Daniel Holcomb disclosed the searches were part of a drug interdiction effort the agency has long had in place at the nation's airports. Such mass searches are conducted less frequently on Saipan, he noted, due to a shortage of time and manpower.

"It's basic interdiction work," he said, adding that the Shanghai flight was randomly selected and that the searches found nothing. "People should expect to see us at the airport because that is part of our job."

DEA searches at the local airport are often linked to confidential tips that illegal drugs are on board an arriving aircraft but in the case of the new Shanghai flights, the agency may have a desire to monitor the newly started service, according to Jesus Muña, director of the CNMI's Division of Customs Service.

"There was no particular reason why they did that, just that, I would assume, it was the airline's second flight from Shanghai and they were doing a random check," he said. "They're just making sure that we are secure and that the people who we are bringing in are okay for us."

However, local tourism officials are now pursuing talks with the agencies involved in Saturday's searches in a bid to prevent such incidents from happening again. Perry Tenorio, managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority, said the searches could damage the CNMI's reputation in China, adding that some Chinese government officials were traveling on the flight.

"Obviously, this is not a good start for their arrival on the island," he said. "The information we have on how these tourists were handled gives us the sense that a lot of them felt violated. We're trying to get together with the agencies involved to prevent something like this from happening again."

CUC

From Page 1

Fitial first declared the state of emergency on Aug. 1.

Under the new stipulations, CUC must comply with its own procurement regulations as well as the CNMI's, except if the CUC executive director finds that such compliance is not feasible to the disaster emergency. In such cases, the director must document all procurement activity for review by the governor, Public Utilities Commission, Public Auditor, Executive and Legislature. After each procurement process, CUC must notify as soon as possible by e-mail the governor, Senate president, House speaker, PUC and the Public Auditor regarding:

- the subject of the procurement;
- contractors and/or suppliers;
- amounts involved;
- extent to which competitive bids or proposals were used; and
- a short description of the reason for the action.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said the new executive order should satisfy the concern of the Legislature.

"It's very transparent. That way we make sure we control the situation, so there are no abuses," he said. "We do not want to invite abuses. We will hold procurement regulations unless there is a compelling case not to, and we will then have to provide a report. I think we refined it to make it even better to reflect some of the concerns [raised] by the Legislature, and still provide reliable power and not be put back in the dark."

In his earlier executive order, Fitial said parts of CUC's power plants were in such disrepair that an explosion could maim or kill power plant workers.

The new order also states that, while the Aggreko generators' additional 13 megawatts of power to the island has "meant the difference between continued rolling blackouts and largely continuous service to CUC electric customers," unforeseen technical issues have arisen, causing some forced outages. One of the challenges, according to the declaration, is the failure of the electrical production and distribution facilities, in particular the Chalan Kiya distribution transformers, which require immediate maintenance.

"Their failure could plunge the south end of Saipan into lengthy blackouts, including the water wells in the airport area and the Agingan Point sewage treatment facilities," the order states.

The order directs CUC to procure as soon as possible the necessary technical expertise, labor, parts and materials to fix the equipment.

Also, the order directs CUC to procure "with deliberate speed" the contractors necessary to remove used oil from Tank 104 and hundreds of other nearby barrels because they are structurally unsound. Severe weather, such as a serious typhoon, could cause the barrels to spill and pollute the lagoon. The removal of the barrels must comply with federal environmental law and, "CUC lacks the internal capability to carry out the removal, and must contract for these services," according to the declaration.

Fitial directed CUC to provide him within 30 days a plan for compliance with various agency regulations.

Senate eyeing $1.7M reserve funds in budget

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Senate is looking at reserving money to ensure the Washington Representative's Office and the Division of Immigration will be funded in case Gov. Benigno R. Fitial succeeds in blocking implementation of the new immigration law.

Sen. Maria T. Pangelinan, chairwoman of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, said the substitute bill being drafted to replace the House-passed budget may include $1.7 million reserve funds for agencies affected by U.S. Public Law 110-229 and other programs.

In anticipation of the election of a CNMI delegate to the U.S. Congress and the pending federal takeover of local immigration, lawmakers propose to fund the Washington Representative's Office for three months only and the Division of Immigration through May 31, 2009.

But Pangelinan argues that the CNMI government must be prepared to continue funding these programs in case the governor prevails in his lawsuit against the U.S. government over the new law.

"FY2009 is a year of many changes. U.S. Public Law 110-229 may or may not be implemented, based on the ability of the governor to pursue and be successful in his suit for a permanent stay on the implementation of this law," she said in a report to the Senate.

If the court stops the law from taking effect, she added, both the WRO and the Division of Immigration will remain open and require funding for all of FY2009 or until the lawsuit is resolved.

Currently, the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee is proposing to grant the WRO's request for a budget of $347,076, which covers personnel expenses for three months and shut down costs. If P.L. 110-229 does not go into effect, the WRO will require additional funding of $464,630.

As for the Division of Immigration, the funding requirement is expected to increase from $1.46 million for nine months, to $2 million for the entire year.

Combined, the potential additional costs for both agencies will comprise $1 million of the proposed $1.7 million reserve fund. The remainder could go to court judgments against the CNMI government, the government's pension debt, and the cash-strapped Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Pangelinan said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CLUB HINEMLO-TA

Pilot participants in the Club Hinemlo-ta, a swimming exercise program, go through their routine. The program, run by volunteers under the Diabetes Coalition and Ayuda Network, aims to reach people who are diabetic or pre-diabetic and unable to exercise in a gym or along the beach pathways. The exercise is low-impact and follows the American Diabetic Association recommendation of three days a week of activity.

House OKs anti-smoking bill

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives has passed legislation making it illegal to smoke in public places in the Commonwealth.

By a 15-1 vote, the Lower House approved the bill designed to ban smoking at local restaurants and workplaces. Rep. Stanley Torres voted against the bill, and Reps. Victor Hocog and Joseph Reyes abstained. Two members were absent: Reps. Edwin Aldan and Ray N. Yumul.

The bill will become law once approved by the Senate and signed by the governor.

Under the proposed legislation, all enclosed public places and indoor workplaces must be completely smoke-free. It also bans smoking within 25 feet of doorways, windows, and ventilation intakes.

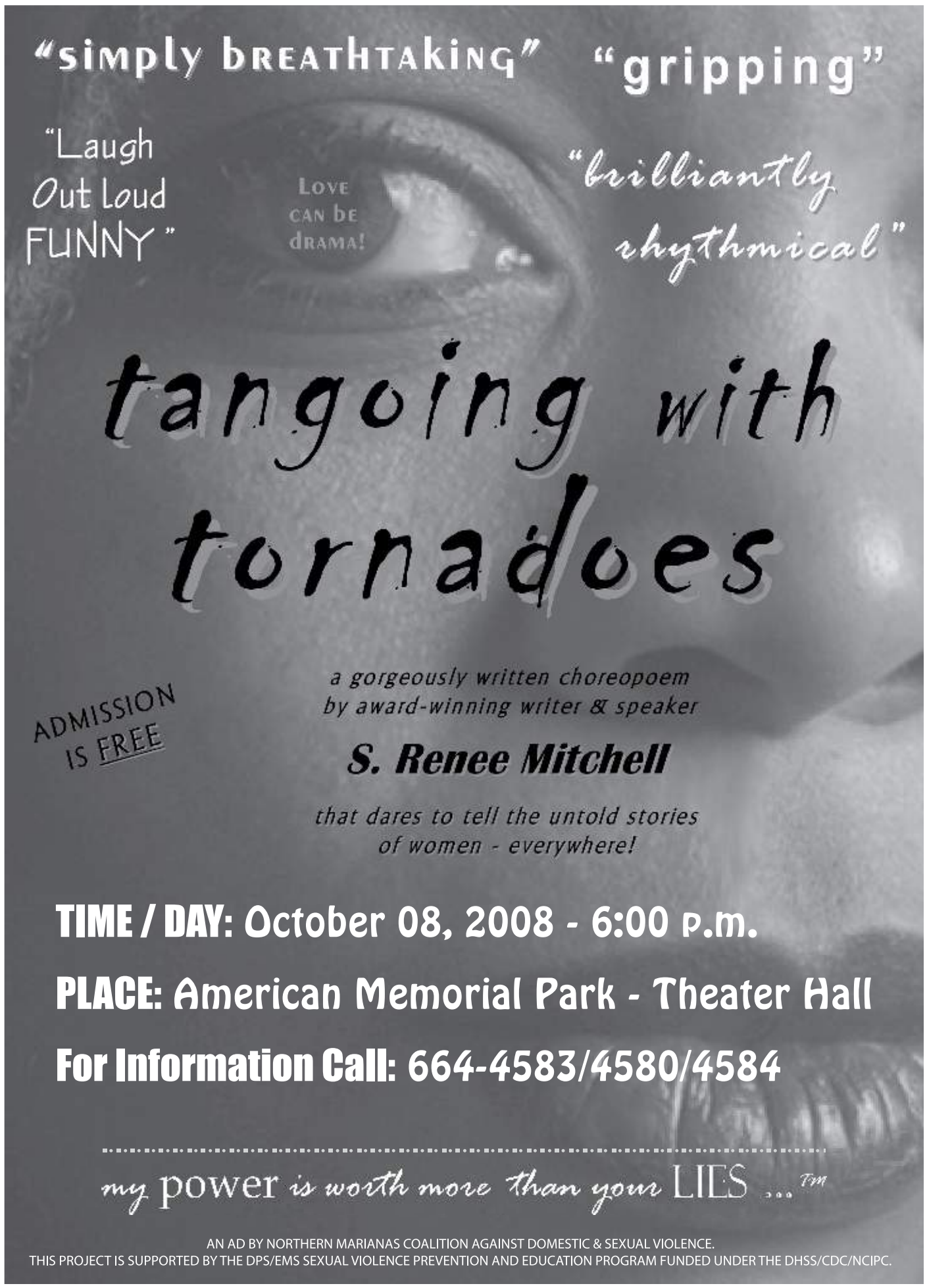
But there are several exemptions. The smoking ban does not apply to bars, private residences, and retail tobacco stores, as well as hotel rooms and private rooms in nursing homes that are designated as smoking.

The smoking ban has received broad support from the community. The Department of Public Health called the bill "a stepping stone toward improved health for our CNMI community." The CNMI Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition said the measure is "long-awaited and much needed."

Palauan leaders also expressed their support for the legislation. Palau's Office of the Council of Chiefs said, "Tobacco use was never part of our Pacific tradition and so legislation to control its use will go toward reinforcing traditional practice—a healthy policy on the part of Pacific people which we embrace."

For its part, the local business sector has offered a qualified support for the bill. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce backed the smoking ban, but urged lawmakers to adopt certain amendments providing relief to bars and hotels. The business group was successful in getting the bill amended to exempt restaurants with attached bars after regular dining hours.

However, lawmakers rejected the Chamber's proposals to remove the 20-percent limit on the number of rooms in a hotel where the owners permit smoking, and to remove the prohibition on smoking within 25 feet of an establishment where a ban is in place.


"simply breathtaking"
"gripping"
"Laugh Out Loud FUNNY"
Love can be drama!
"brilliantly rhythmical"
tangoing with tornadoes
ADMISSION IS FREE
a gorgeously written choreopoem
by award-winning writer & speaker
S. Renee Mitchell
that dares to tell the untold stories
of women - everywhere!
TIME / DAY: October 08, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: American Memorial Park - Theater Hall
For Information Call: 664-4583/4580/4584
my power is worth more than your LIES ...™
AN AD BY NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE.
THIS PROJECT IS SUPPORTED BY THE DPS/EMS SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM FUNDED UNDER THE DHSS/CDC/NCIPC.

Firefighters respond to 250 fire cases in 2 years

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI firefighters responded to 250 fire incidents, including bush fires, in 2007 and 2008, according to the Department of Public Safety's Fire Division.

The Fire Division also said majority of structure fires in the Commonwealth displaced homeowners.

Based on division statistics, unattended cooking is the number one cause of structure fires in the CNMI, said Firefighter 2 Daniel Suel, adding that this year alone he investigated six structure fire cases on Saipan.

Yesterday, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial declared Oct. 5 to 11 as CNMI Fire Prevention Week.

In the proclamation, Fitial urged people of the CNMI to protect their homes and families by heeding the important safety messages of Fire Prevention Week.

The governor also appealed to people to support the many public safety activities and efforts of DPS Fire and Emergency Services.

Home fires killed more than 2,500 people in the United States in 2006, according to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association. Fire departments in the U.S. responded to nearly 400,000 home fires.

Cooking is reportedly the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries nationwide.

"Residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire," said the proclamation, which was read by 6th grader Patrick Somorang, a Make-A-Wish Foundation's honorary firefighter.

During the proclamation signing held at the governor's conference room, Suel said that Tinian and Rota will also be participating in this week's fire prevention week activities.

"We will be out there doing public education for kids, the grades schools and high schools," Suel said.

He said they would be teaching children how to prevent trash fires or bush fires.

Last year, the Fire Division, through federal funding, issued about 3,000 smoke detectors to qualified homeowners in the CNMI.

Suel said the issuance of smoke detectors was the start as they are now teaching homeowners to develop fire escape routes in their houses.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago Tudela, and honorary firefighter Patrick Somorang pose with firefighters and fire cadets during yesterday's proclamation signing for CNMI Fire Prevention Week.

Tinian resort project sees public backing

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

After a public hearing last week on the island of Tinian, backers of a plan to construct a futuristic, multi-million dollar resort there are anticipating the approval of an environmental permit that will clear the way for the project to move forward.

In a statement, the Marianas Resort Development Co. Inc. said the hearing saw several members of the public on Tinian calling for the approval of a Coastal Resources Management Office permit for the planned Matua Bay Resort, based on its likely economic benefits for the island's struggling local tourism industry.

"We are pleased with the outcome of the public hearing and look forward to receiving the CRM permit in the coming weeks," said MRDC president Kang Yun Lee. "We are very optimistic of the opportunities ahead of us all as we embark on the final steps toward acquiring our construction permits."

Designs for the complex, crafted by acclaimed Japanese architect Shin Takamatsu, include a 405-room hotel and a casino encased in shimmering glass and surrounded by water features. Outside, plans call for an 18-hole golf course, and staff housing. The resort will also have its own drinking water and wastewater disposal systems, and back-up power generators. Construction is slated to commence in early 2009.

Meanwhile, MRDC is set to begin building the golf course after CRM's permit approval. One potential hitch to the project is the need to relocate an existing solid waste dump at the site. Yet William Hofschnieder, one of the proponents of the development plan, said in an interview that officials on Tinian are now surveying a location outside the military-controlled section of the island for a new dump.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce
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U.S. House of Representatives
Candidate Forum
Tuesday, October 14, 2008
Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hibiscus Hall
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Doors close promptly at 6:30 pm.
• General Public – $15.00 In advance
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• Students w/I.D. – $7.00 In advance
$10.00 at the door
Purchase tickets in advance at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office,
located on the ground floor of the Family Building on Garapan St., Garapan
Monday - Friday • 8:00 am - 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. • Tel: 233-7150

Products remain on shelves

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Until a reputable World Food regulating agency recalls any products, the Bureau of Environmental Health will keep all products on store shelves, BEH manager John Tagabuel said yesterday.

According to a circulating list, several products, including an assortment of flavors of Dreyer's ice cream, M&M chocolate candies, and Dove chocolates, have been found to contain melamine, but the USA Food and Drug Administration and World Health Agency have not announced recalls on any of the listed foods.

Tagabuel said until a recall is announced, nothing will be taken off of local store shelves.

Last week BEH directed two wholesalers and 10 retail outlets on Saipan to remove White Rabbit candies from their shelves after the manufacturer recalled the candy because it contained melamine. The Department of Public earlier warned the public against buying any milk products with ingredients that came from China.

Chinese baby formula tainted with melamine has been blamed for the deaths of four infants and the illness of 53,000 others in China. Health experts say ingesting a small amount of the chemical poses no danger, but melamine can cause kidney stones and lead to kidney failure. Infants are particularly vulnerable.

Poker gambling habit leads to domestic fight

A man's gambling habit reportedly led to a domestic fight at an apartment in Chalan Kanoa Thursday night.

Shou Ji Zheng, 39, was arrested for assault and battery. He was taken to the Superior Court yesterday for a bail hearing. A $1,000 cash bail was imposed for his temporary liberty.

The victim suffered a swollen right eye.

Detective Simon T. Manacop stated in his report that a police officer responded to a report of a domestic fight at the Marianas Noni Apartments in Chalan Kanoa Thursday at 10:50pm.

Manacop said the victim told police that prior to the beating, Zheng came home after playing poker.

The couple had been arguing about Zheng's poker habit. During the argument, the defendant got mad and allegedly punched his wife twice in the eye.

The wife ran outside their apartment and went to their neighbor where she called for police's help.

Medics treated the victim. She refused to be taken to the hospital.

When police arrived at the apartment, Zheng was asleep. He was then arrested. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Russia travel agents check out the NMI

Four travel agents from Vladivostok, Russia, recently visited the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota. The agents were from Lucky Tours, Double Step Travel, Fregat Aero and Primorye.

The agents were in the CNMI for 10 days to familiarize themselves with each island as well as to gain more knowledge in advance of the scheduled charter flight from Russia in December. Vladivostok is one of the CNMI's key source markets in Russia.

The agents saw the various tourist attractions on each island and also enjoyed an eco-adventure tour at Marianas Trekking. They also inspected the various hotel facilities on the islands and saw some of the cultural shows and the show at SandCastle.

MVA members supporting this familiarization trip include Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Pacific Islands Club, Aqua Resort Club, Saipan World Resort, Mariana Resort & Spa, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Fleming Hotel, Rota Resort & Country Club, Rota Hotel, Tasi Tours, Belka Tours, and Marianas Trekking.

"This FAM tour provided the travel agents a chance to gain first-hand experience of our islands as a tourist destination. We are confident that this tour will provide the necessary resource to sell our islands," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "The Russia market is an emerging one for the CNMI and plays a vital role in the future of tourism. The average visitor from Russia spends 13.5 nights in the CNMI and contributes substantially to our tourism economy." ***(MVA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left to right, Larry Phillips, BOG Garapan branch manager; John Hirsh; Viola Sablan; Marcie Tomokane, BOG VP-regional manager; Jean Sablan, and Larry Lee, Red Cross board chairman.

BoG gives $10K to American Red Cross

Bank of Guam has donated $10,000 and is a premier corporate sponsor for this year's annual American Red Cross Club 200 fundraising dinner and raffle.

"Bank of Guam continues to be a leader in our community by supporting many non-profit organizations including the Red Cross," said John Hirsh, executive director of the NMI Chapter. "Bank of Guam has a strong legacy of helping those in need, particularly the work that the Red Cross does here in the NMI and throughout the region."

Bank of Guam is a leading financial services provider in the Western Pacific, with branches in Guam, the CNMI, Micronesia, the Western United States and the Asia-Pacific rim. ***(PR)***

Sahnee Dupitas Rañola
P.O. Box 503772 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 234-2870

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

SAHNEE DUPITAS RAÑOLA Petitioners, vs. **FRANCISCA GAAG RAÑOLA,** Respondent.	))))))))	**FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0426** **SUMMONS**

TO: FRANCISCA GAAG RAÑOLA

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer your wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to SAHNEE DUPITAS RAÑOLA whose address is P.O. Box 503772 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 28th day of July, 2008.

/s/ **Clerk of Court**

Oil spill mars Majuro shoreline

Dead wildlife, mucked yachts

MAJURO, Marshall Islands (Yokwe/PIR)—A large oil spill at Uliga has mucked up moored yatchts and a section of shoreline on the capital atoll of Majuro, in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Ben Chutaro reported that the foul spelling oil spill stretched from the Uliga dock to his property. He collected oil samples and contacted the Environmental Protection Agency (RMIEPA) on the morning of October 3. As of 5:45 p.m., no action at the scene had been taken.

"I was told by Ronny (EPA) that he had to deal with an earlier spill by Mobil's "Golden Micronesia" and said he noticed the oil spill around my area. He told me that he informed the other responsible authorities, Ports, T&C and others to activate the oil spill containment plan. He also told me that he waited at the dock, but no one showed up." Chutaro said he does not know where it came from, but they noticed the smell from their residence early Friday morning.

"It could be the purse siener, the mother ship or Mobil's Golden Micronesia. It could be something or someone anywhere from the Delap dock to PII where the current winds are now coming."

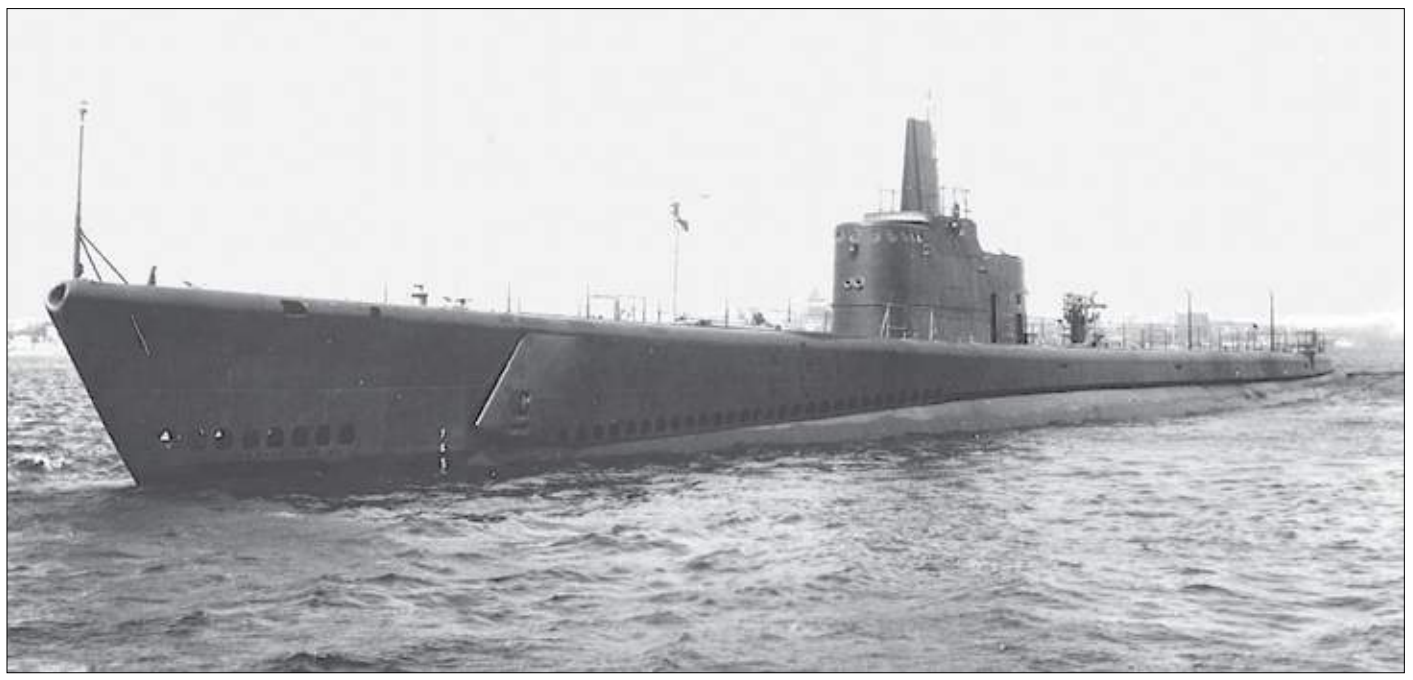
He said that this crisis could be an opportunity to activate the new oil containment plan and see if it works.

In the meantime, the oil continues to slush around and dead wildlife is now visible.

The winds are now southwesterly are expected to continue in this direction, somewhat containing the spill.

"An opportunity exists to deal with the problem now before the winds switch back to normal and the oil goes out to Long Island or some of the smaller inlets in Majuro."

Over the past week, several oil spills have also been reported at the dock and around the airport area.



LOST SUBMARINE AP PHOTO/ELECTRIC BOAT CO.

This photo provided by the Electric Boat Co. via Bruce Abele shows the U.S. submarine USS *Grunion* in this March 20, 1942 file photo. Commander, Submarine Forces Pacific Fleet, Rear Adm. Douglas McAneny announced Oct. 2, 2008, that a sunken vessel off the coast of the Aleutian Islands is in fact the World War II submarine USS *Grunion* (SS 216).

Cuban ambassador courts Pacific isles

RAROTONGA, Cook Islands (Cook Islands News/PIR)—Cuba's ambassador to New Zealand says cooperation between his country and the Pacific region will continue, according to Radio New Zealand.

José Luis Robaina García says he will soon travel to the Cook Islands and several other countries to present his credentials.

Cuba recently met with the representatives of 10 Pacific countries at the first ministerial meeting in the capital of Havana.

García says the meeting was focused on two main ideas, including issues facing small island states, like climate change.

"One is help. We agreed to, according to our possibilities, to increase, especially our medical assistance. For example, with Kiribati, we signed an agreement [to] increase the medical brigade, from 15 to 32 doctors, in the next few months."

The northern Carribean island republic has a population of about 11 million people. Cuba established diplomatic relations with New Zealand in 2001 and opened its embassy in Wellington last year.

Cuba is among the dwindling number of communist countries in the world and is often criticised for its human rights record.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Bush signs bill extending cannery tax break

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—American Samoa Congressman, Faleomavaega Eni, says President Bush has signed the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 into law.

Faleomavaega's provision to extend the tax credits for American Samoa's canneries was included in the law. Faleomavaega says that in these financially difficult times when the US federal government is having to bailout Wall Street to protect Main Street, he thanks his colleagues for supporting his efforts to protect American Samoa's economy in the process. He says American Samoa's economy is more than 80 dependent either directly or indirectly on the US tuna fishing and processing industries. He said the passage of tax breaks to stabilize cannery operations was critical for protecting the jobs of some 5,000 cannery workers.

Japanese fishing boat fined in Solomons

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—In Solomon Islands, a Japanese longline fishing boat, the FV *Kinei Maru 118*, has been fined almost US$300,000 for breaching its fishing license conditions. The vessel was found to have transshipped at sea on two separate occasions and had failed to keep records or supply relevant information to the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources as required. The *Kinei Maru 118* is operated by Japan Tuna Fisheries that has a valid license to fish in Solomon Islands Waters under a bilateral arrangement with the Solomon Islands Government.

Nine still held in Noumea over fake passports

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Two people remain in custody and seven others are under house arrest in New Caledonia after they were found carrying false passports two weeks ago. Police have said a group of 12 people apparently from the Middle East and caught in possession of allegedly forged Danish and stolen Irish passports, were part of a human trafficking scheme. Police would not give details on what has happened to the remaining 3 people, apart from saying they have been sent away. None of them wants to give a real name, they just say they are Palestinians or Iraqis. But police say so far four have been identified thanks to the cooperation with Australian police. As the inquiry has been opened here, the refugees will be judged in New Caledonia. But that poses a problem, because noone knows when they will be trialled and France doesn't extradite Iraqis say police, so New Caledonia will have to deal with these refugees.

Three Hindu temples vandalized in Fiji

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times/PIR)—Three Hindu temples were broken into while one was burned down in Korociriciri, Nausori last night. A team of police officers are working round-the-clock on the case to apprehend those involved in desecrating the temple. Assistant Police spokesperson Atunaisa Sokomuri said an unknown number of youth are believed to be involved in the incident. He added that police did not condone such acts of sacrilege and reassured the public those caught will be dealt with. "Police standing will always be the same; we do not tolerate sacrilege act especially destroying of ones place of worship, which is seen as an abuse of a persons right. We would like to reassure the public that our officers are working on the matter and these crimes should not be condoned by any right minded person," he said.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

October 07, 1999

Acquitted defendant to seek asylum

Shi Guo Ri was among those who had paid for a dream that would turn into a nightmare. He wanted to go to the United States. He would eventually bring over his family to join him when he gets settled there. He drew beautiful images on his mind when he left Fu Quing village and boarded the rusty boat bound for Guam. Instead, he spent several months in jail after being charged with crimes that he said he did not understand.

Delay in Saipan power project questioned

Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes has expressed concern over the delay in the decision of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation on the Saipan power plant despite completion of an independent evaluation on the various proposals for the long-stalled project. He warned bids submitted by different power companies as early as 1997 are valid only until October 16 this year as stipulated in the initial request for proposal, which will make the two-year procurement process void unless the $120 million contract is awarded before the deadline.

DEQ seeks environmental assessment

The Division of Environmental Quality has asked the U.S. Navy and the Coast Guard whether they have conducted an assessment of the area where the military vessels are currently stationed to prevent any possibility of hitting an ordnance that may have been buried within the vicinity. DEQ Director Ignacio Cabrera raised this issue during a recent meeting on disaster preparedness attended by various federal and local government agencies.

October 07, 2002

More staff shuffling at NMC

Staff reorganization continues at the Northern Marianas College, which has, so far, resulted in the promotion, demotion or changing of assignments of several employees. Based on the latest changes, Tony V. Deleon Guerrero, who used to be the director of Institutional Development, is now dean of the NMC's reorganized Community Programs and Services department.

NMIRF saves $4.6M in claims

A year after signing a contract with a third-party administrator, the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund has saved $4.6 million, representing a potential cost that was avoided after the Hawaii Pacific Medical Referral weeded out the ineligibles and factored in the discounts and other considerations.

Stores selling fake Stussy clothes sued

A California-based garment firm has filed a multi-million-dollar lawsuit against more than 15 department stores and dress shops in the Commonwealth for allegedly selling counterfeit clothing using its registered brand and trademark to locals and foreign tourists alike. Stussy, Inc., manufacturer of Stussy clothing, is claiming at least "$1 million per mark per type of goods per defendant," in a civil action it filed with the U.S. District Court on Saipan. Stussy manufactures clothing that include shirts, pants, shorts, bathing suits, sweat suits, and vests, among others.

October 07, 2003

Majority predicts 4-4 split

Despite a report that Tinian's new senator-elect Joseph Mendiola is poised to join Sen. Paul A. Manglona's bloc, the new Senate majority is encouraging the newcomer to hear both sides before committing his allegiance to one camp. But in the event that Mendiola chooses to side with Manglona's group, the majority predicts a clean 4-4 split, which is expected to create a deadlock in the upper house-at least until after the midterm and special elections come up with victors that will complete the Senate membership of nine senators.

HJHS discusses teen dating violence

Hopwood Junior High School will highlight the risks of teen dating when its Student Council officers lead the discussion on dating violence on October 11 at the Hopwood campus. Domestic Violence Intervention Center coordinator Jesse P. Stein said Hopwood Stuco officers are so supportive of the domestic violence awareness campaign that a mini-conference would be held during the weekend to educate teenagers on the risk of teen dating.

Tricare retiree dental benefit available overseas

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFPN)—Retired Tricare beneficiaries living overseas may enroll in the Tricare Retiree Dental Program beginning Oct. 1.

The Enhanced-Overseas TRDP is available for all eligible uniformed service retirees and their families.

"For many years, military retirees and their families have requested a dental program overseas," said Navy Capt. Robert Mitton, the chief of the dental care branch for the Tricare Management Activity. "We at Tricare are very excited about fulfilling that desire with the new Enhanced-Overseas TRDP."

Before this enhancement, the dental program was only available to retirees and their families in the United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Canada. The Enhanced-Overseas TRDP now allows retirees worldwide to purchase dental coverage.

Tricare officials said the highlights of the benefits available under the enhanced program include:

■ Affordable premiums.

■ Immediate coverage upon effective enrollment date for all routine, preventive and emergency services, such as cleanings, exams, X-rays, fluoride treatments, fillings, oral surgery, periodontal treatment and root canals.

■ Coverage for implant services, crowns, bridges, dentures and orthodontics after a 12-month waiting period.

■ Separate dental accident coverage is included.

There is no TRDP dentist network overseas; however, Enhanced-Overseas TRDP enrollees who need to locate a dentist for covered services may call the International SOS Assistance Inc., a 24-hour referral service, toll free from inside the United States at 800-523-6586 or outside of the United States via collect call to 215-942-8226. People should indicate to an I-SOS representative that Delta Dental is their dental coverage carrier.

Also, an online host-nation provider list of more than 500 dentists and dental clinics in nearly 50 countries is located on the TRDP Web site at www.trdp.org. Note that overseas dentists do not offer discounted dental services as do the participating TRDP dentists within the original service areas.

For Enhanced-Overseas TRDP customer service questions, contact Delta Dental of California via the following international toll-free number (AT&T USADirect Access Number) at +866-721-8737.

"Offering the TRDP overseas gives retirees and their families a fantastic opportunity for access to more affordable dental care through a program that has a proven track record," Captain Mitton said. ***(Tricare News Service)***

Prevent dental cavities by avoiding snacking

By LORI SERNA BS, RDH, MED
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Are you one of those people who cringe every time you receive a reminder from your dental office telling you it is time for your yearly check-up? If so, you are not alone. Many people dislike dental visits and hold their breath when they see their dentist. Most people are ok with the regular cleaning appointment. It is the dental exam that holds the most anticipation. "Will they find a cavity? One? Two? I sure hope no more than that!" This is what goes through most patient's minds.

The culprit of dental cavities is bacteria that lives in our mouth; we commonly refer to it as dental plaque.

The culprit of dental cavities is bacteria that lives in our mouth; we commonly refer to it as dental plaque. Dental plaque begins to build on our teeth as soon as 20 minutes after eating. If this plaque is not removed thoroughly and routinely, dental cavities can start. The acid in plaque wears away the enamel surface of the tooth and begins to make holes in the tooth. Cavities usually don't hurt until they grow very large and involve the nerves.

By now most people know how to take care of their teeth. Brush twice a day and floss once a day is all you have to do to have a healthy beautiful smile. Right? Well that is not all. If you want to take it a one step further, avoid eating in between meals.

Every time we eat a meal, the environment in our mouth changes from neutral to acidic and so it increases the chances of getting a dental cavity. Your mouth will remain acidic for several hours after eating, so snacking is more likely to lead to caries.

You also can reduce the amount of acid in your mouth by eating sugary or starchy foods less often during the day. The more you snack the more time the acids are in contact with the enamel, therefore having a greater opportunity to make a cavity.

Sticky foods as well as sweets are best if eaten during mealtime, to avoid dental cavities. Sticky foods such as chips, and raisins are more harmful because they remain on the surface of the teeth longer.

If you must snack, brush if possible, or rinse the mouth with water after eating. Also keep in mind avoid constant sipping of sugary drinks, including milk, coffee or tea, and especially soda which is very acidic. Don't suck on candy or mints unless they are sugar-free. Chewing gum that contains xylitol helps to neutralize the acid that occurs after eating.

Remember to eat a healthy balanced diet to help your body build strong muscles as well as bones and healthy teeth and gums. Dairy products provide calcium and vitamin D for strengthening teeth and bones. Breads and cereal supply B vitamins for growth and iron for healthy blood, which in turn contributes to healthy gum tissue. Fruits and vegetables containing vitamin C (among other important vitamins) are essential to maintaining healthy gums. Lean meat, fish, poultry and beans provide iron and protein for overall good health, and magnesium and zinc for teeth and bones.

■■■

In celebration of October being National Dental Hygiene Month, the SDA Dental Clinic is offering free dental exams to new patients. Please call 234-6323 for an appointment.

Lori Serna is a dental hygienist who works with Saipan's SDA Dental Clinic on increasing dental health awareness throughout the CNMI.

BoG gets notice of temporary increase in FDIC insurance

FDIC insurance up to $250,000 per depositor

HAGATNA, Guam—The Bank of Guam has received a Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. notice announcing the temporary raising of the basic limit on FDIC insurance coverage from $100,000 to $250,000 per depositor.

The legislation provides that the basic deposit insurance limit will return to $100,000 on Dec. 31, 2009.

To see the circular, called "Financial Institution Letter" No. FIL-102-2008, visit www.fdic.gov/news/news/financial/2008/index.html.

Lou Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam president and board chair, said, "We are an FDIC-insured institution, and we are very pleased to announce to our accountholders that the FDIC insurance has been raised to $250,000 per depositor on their accounts with the Bank of Guam. Effective Oct. 3, 2008, until Dec. 31, 2009, this announcement is welcome news to local depositors."

As a reminder, the Bank of Guam effective Oct. 1, 2008, raised its savings rate to 2.27 percent APY.

Marine ordnance survey on FDM

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, said the U.S. military is conducting marine ordnance survey on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla from until Oct. 11, 2008, from 12am to 11:59pm. The activity began on Oct. 6.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area (R7201) on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Now for the hard part

In the end, the system worked, in its own halting, imperfect way. Now, we can only hope that the $700 billion package passed by the House of Representatives and signed into law by the president Friday performs the hoped-for trick of unlocking the credit markets and averting economic disaster.

The measure, as finally approved, was a dramatic improvement over the three-page, just-sign-here proposal that Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson initially submitted. It still gives the administration huge leeway and will need skillful Treasury administration, but it includes increased oversight and greater protections for taxpayers. After Monday's stunning rejection by the House and the resulting plunge in the stock market, both presidential candidates pitched in to salvage the deal; the Senate acted to revive the measure; and enough—more than enough—House lawmakers in both parties rethought their original positions, in part as callers from home districts who were fearful of economic disaster began to outpace the callers who were indignant at the idea of a bailout. House leaders, including Democrat Steny Hoyer of Maryland and Republican Roy Blunt of Missouri, worked together. Juvenile partisanship gave way, at least for the moment, to productive cooperation.

But not, however, without a price. One of the changes the Senate made to the package made sense: a temporary increase in federal insurance of bank accounts from $100,000 to $250,000 to deter potential bank runs. It is sadly ironic, however, that the Senate felt the need—or seized the opportunity—to add unnecessarily to the deficit. A moment of economic peril became powerful leverage for fiscal irresponsibility in the form of another $100 billion-plus in deficit-financed tax cuts.

We refer to the Senate's move to tack on to the package an unrelated measure that had been the subject of congressional intramural football: the extension of expiring tax provisions that business eagerly sought and a temporary patch in the alternative minimum tax. The House and Senate agreed on the merits of the tax measure but differed about whether any of it should be paid for by closing tax loopholes. The House, prodded by the Democrats' Blue Dogs, had been insisting on paying for everything but the AMT patch; the Senate balked. The take-it-or-leave-it, end-of-the-session Senate move to combine the rescue measure with the tax package was unnecessary—there were preferable legislative paths to a House majority—and put the House in a difficult position. House leaders made the wiser choice of poison later over poison now.

Friday's action by no means ensures that the problem has been solved. The bad economic news continued to mount, with a drop in orders for manufactured goods and a seven-year high in claims for unemployment benefits. The credit markets have become so dysfunctional that California Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger sent Paulson a letter warning that the state might need a $7 billion loan because it has not been able to borrow the money elsewhere. Meantime, the global nature of the metastasizing crisis adds to the nervousness. Maybe the only sure thing is that without the congressional action, prospects would be far bleaker.

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MAKING NO-DOWN-PAYMENT LOANS TO BAD CREDIT RISKS WITH UNDOCUMENTED INCOME, ALL IN THE EXPECTATION OF EVER-RISING MARKETS??
HOW LONG DID YOU THINK THAT COULD GO ON?!
WALL STREET
MAIN STREET
BAILOUT APPLI-CATION
U.S. GOV'T.
LOANS
A LITTLE WHILE LONGER, WE HOPE!
SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN...
U.S. TAXPAYER
$700 BIL APPLI-CATION
LOANS
ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL TREVER ©2008

Where do we go from here?

Is the Fund in jeopardy resulting from an economic 'meltdown' of its own?

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.

Considering the economic disaster the United States government has now subjected the taxpayers with the infamous "Wall Street bailout" I am left to conclude that many within the country's financial sector will be revealed as being the greatest manipulative financial thieves the world has ever known. As for the agencies responsible for failed oversight of the financial sector, including those committees of Congress, it vividly points out that we are governed by rank amateurs. Pity the same can't be said of financial swindlers and predatory lenders.

I don't know if you have ever thought about it or not but being governed by amateurs can be costly as they make serious mistakes. As long as the country was rich it didn't matter so much as we could afford the expense of their mistakes. But the U.S. is not so rich anymore—it's a debtor nation and we are now going to feel the results of incompetence in government.

Any government agency; private financial institution; member of a Congressional committee or individual previously in a position to have foreseen the present economic situation and failed to sound the alarm should have no future role whatsoever in recommending a solution. Their advice is not creditable.

I can't imagine a more despicable scenario than having the public pay the cost of the poor judgment and irresponsibility of those politicians who brought about the unfortunate economic situation now facing the American taxpayer over the long-term.

I know that I can speak for all who agree with me: We have simply had enough of lobbyists; self-serving government bureaucrats; financial manipulators; and an uncooperative, individually politically motivated partisan Congress and their sycophants.

As for the adverse impact the federal "bailout" will have on the NMI Retirement Fund, it's probably too early to tell, but my instinct tells me it won't be good. In fact it will be very bad.

Without the benefit of Fund financial data, I would not be surprised to learn the members have lost as much of one quarter, if not more, of the total remaining value of its investment portfolio (considering also the amount drawn down to pay pensions).

The loss is seriously compounded by the central government's failure to meet its financial obligation to the Fund by neglecting to pay the millions it owes. Why is it I have the uneasy impression that the central government is trying to break the Fund by its obvious neglect?

The delay in the Fund's lawsuit against the government doesn't help the condition of the Fund either.

If something isn't done regarding these two important issues, the Fund will very soon have its own financial meltdown. If you don't believe me ask a current or previous member of the board of trustees.

The loss is seriously compounded by the central government's failure to meet its financial obligation to the Fund by neglecting to pay the millions it owes. Why is it I have the uneasy impression that the central government is trying to break the Fund by its obvious neglect?

I can't help but wonder how many government employees switched from the defined benefit plan to the defined contribution plan at the urging of the central government and subsequently participated in a 401K savings plan. They may regret that move in the not too distant future.

I hope the Fund's board of trustees is aware of the fiduciary standards to which its members are held and I hope they have formally sworn an oath to uphold such standards by written acknowledgement.

As far as financial records are concerned many of my readers

See WHERE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

'A natural treasure worth protecting'

By JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU
Special to the Saipan Tribune

The eldest son of the late ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau, Jean-Michel Cousteau is president of Ocean Futures Society.

Last year over four million people visited the Grand Canyon and it is widely regarded as one of the world's natural treasures. But as the people of the Northern Marianas know, however, not all of nature's treasures lie above the waves. The unique geological and ecological marvels found in the water surrounding the Mariana Trench makes this area one of the world's most precious marine environments.

President George W. Bush, following in the footsteps of noted conservationist Theodore Roosevelt, recently proposed protecting these invaluable treasures found in the waters of the U.S.-held Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands once and for all.

The question is still open as to what prohibitions will be established in the area against fishing, drilling and mining. It is also uncertain whether the area will be designated as a marine sanctuary or national monument.

Yet while there may be unresolved issues, one thing is clear: If the President establishes this site as a no-take reserve, it would be one of the most significant conservation achievements of any President in U.S. history. The people of the CNMI should make their voices heard on how why it's so important that we protect these underwater treasures while we still can.

I'll never forget the first time I visited the waters off the Marianas. The area holds a kaleidoscope of life. More than 250,000 sea birds representing two dozen species live in the area that would be included in the proposed marine monument, along with several species of endangered and threatened populations of sea turtles, and the coconut crab—the world's largest land-living arthropod. Indeed, scientists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have described the waters off the Northern Marianas as one of the most unique geological and biological environments on Earth.

The proposed monument also includes a portion of the trench and a significant cross-section of one of the planet's most volcanically active regions. The combination of the trench and volcanic geology creates a wholly unique and extraordinary underwater wonderland of seamounts and mud volcanoes not found anywhere else.

Managed properly—much as the areas around the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone and other treasures that are above the waves—the natural wonders that bless the CNMI could serve as an important engine for tourism. To do that, however, the mechanisms to properly manage uses of such special places while also protecting them from damaging activities that only pay off in the short term must be put in place. Designation as a marine reserve would be just the tool to use here.

While roughly 13 percent of the Earth's land is currently protected, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, less than 1 percent of our oceans are completely off limits to fishing. Scientists, however, have found that when managed properly no-take marine reserves can be a tremendous tool in both conservation and rebuilding stressed fish populations.

No-take marine reserves act like nurseries where animals grow larger than normal. They reproduce much more effectively and reproductive capabilities increase exponentially with the size of the fish. The abundance of these no-fishing zones often spill over into adjacent fishing areas, where just outside the boundaries, fishermen can fish all they want. This, in addition to the potential of millions of new tourist dollars that designation of a marine monument might bring, could be a boon *for the local economy.*

As a lifelong environmentalist, diver and marine explorer, I have dedicated much of my life to advocating the protection of the world's oceans. In particular, marine reserves are of primary importance in preserving the richness and integrity of the plant and animal life within. And President Bush's proposed ocean monument in the CNMI has the opportunity to do just that.

The proposed monument complements the protections already enforced by the CNMI and presents a remarkable opportunity to care for every link in this complex and fragile chain as an integrated ecosystem.

We owe it to future generations that the natural wonders found below the waves enjoy protections just as strongly as those above. Areas that may seem remote and hard to reach today could be the natural treasures of tomorrow.

I hope the people of the Northern Marianas will make their voices heard in this next step of the process and let officials in Washington know that they want to protect the CNMI's natural treasures while there is still time.

Letters to the Editor

Misunderstandings about repeal of Article 12

It seems to me that one of the misunderstandings about repealing Article 12 is that land would be gone—sold. This is not the case. It is up to the individual not to sell at all. Repealing Article 12 will not force anyone to do anything he or she does not want to do.

What Article 12 is doing is preventing an individual from exercising his/her right to dispose of their personal belongings—land in this case—in the manner in which they choose to. It is therefore discriminatory. Repeal of Article 12 will *not* force anyone to sell if they don't want to. What it does, however, is remove the discrimination aspect of the law.

What if an individual for some reason or another is moving to settle for good someplace else and wants to dispose of all his or her belongings, including land? Who are we to tell this person what to do with his or her belongings? Who are we to deprive this individual or family of maximizing the value of their assets? Let us keep in mind that fee simple can get a higher return than a long-term lease.

Article 12 was set up to protect person of Northern Marianas descent with land. It's been more than 25 years now. Don't you think we have matured enough to know what we want? A child born 25 years ago is expected by now to be able to stand on his own two feet and even to have a family.

Repealing Article 12 will not only simplify things, it will remove the discriminatory nature of the law. There are so many issues tied up by Article 12 that unless something is done now, we will be faced in the very near future with problems that will tear up families. We are a community of many races. There are individuals that are only half Chamorro/Carolinians now. It will take 25 years before some of the offspring will not be able to be a part of us due to Article 12.

Efrain Camacho
Navy Hill, Saipan

Editorial Forum's final question

I have received a great deal of appreciation for conducting the Editorial Forum and it has truly been my pleasure to have been of service to the people of the CNMI. As we can see, more candidates have participated in the forum and to all the candidates I want to thank you for giving the people an opportunity to hear you.

To those who still failed to participate in this forum, I can tell you as a voting citizen and student of political science that your chances of winning have been affected by your failure to present yourself to the people. The nonparticipating candidates—Juan Lizama, John Davis, Felipe Atalig and Luis Crisostomo—should have known that the Forum was designed to help people separate the genuine candidates from the rest of the field and your failure to participate just made it easier for the people to make their choices.

The questions I have presented are the type of questions that most teachers get from students on a daily basis in the classroom—simple, direct to the point and demand revealing and informative answers. The large number of candidates limited the number of questions I could ask but at least we now know what you plan, how you are going to do it and where you stand with our federal relationship. It is now time for the last and most important question, which is: **"Why are you the BEST candidate?"**

The same rules apply and you cannot make any direct or indirect attacks on an individual candidate. You can differentiate yourself from the other candidates with phrases like *"I am the only candidate"* or "*none of the other candidates"* but you cannot attack individual candidates nor make individual comparisons. You should also state facts and not opinions or beliefs. This is not a debate and you must stand on your own merits.

In closing I want to reiterate my appreciation to candidates Pete A. Tenorio, Chong Man Won, John O. Gonzales, David M. Cing and Gregorio C. Sablan for participating in this very important forum for the people of the CNMI that surely helped the voting public narrow down their choices. Maybe we can do it again with the candidates for Governor in the next election, now that readers and future candidates can clearly see it is for real, it is seriously affecting the votes, and it is badly needed. Adios and thanks to the *Saipan Tribune* on behalf of the readers who appreciated the forum and for the honor and privilege of being the "first host" for your Editorial Forum.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Editor's Note: The final question being posed to the delegate candidates is: "Why are you the best candidate?" Responses will be published on Friday. Deadline to submit responses is Oct. 9, at 12pm.

WHERE

From Page 10

have mentioned, and I must agree, what little information does emanate from the Fund relative to its financial condition usually appears to have been generated at the instigation of a news reporter's interview with Fund officials and not provided directly to the retirees from the board. A most recent case in point is the status of the Fund's lawsuit against the central government for which no information has been forthcoming from the board.

In this regard, and in keeping with the board's fiduciary responsibilities, may I suggest that consideration be given to periodically issuing a news letter to the members. I'm certain such would be most welcome.

Also, of great importance in my judgment is the Fund's best estimate as to how long the portfolio can sustain the payment of pensions at the projected rate of depletion. While this information may not be considered politically expedient by some in the central government and Legislature, such is certainly not the case for those retirees directly effected as owners of the Fund's remaining resources.

I do not recall having ever received, or indeed, been notified of the availability of an annual audited financial statement on the condition of the Fund as developed under the generally accepted uniform standards of accounting principles. This too is greatly needed by the members.

Knowledge on almost every subject (except Fund finances) is now widely accessible and as a result many members of the Fund are very well informed; they are experienced and many are highly educated. They are a new breed. They can certainly read financial statements if they had them available.

Conversely, old, formerly reliable financial institutions, banks and brokerage houses are being crushed under the weight of market and government forces unforeseen just a few years ago and are going bankrupt every day in part as a result of resistance to change and failure to anticipate the unintended consequences of their failure to adapt and change. Unbridled greed also played a major role in the predatory lending practices of many banks and credit card issuing companies with their exorbitant, usurious interest rates.

Indeed, government at all levels appears unable to function in solving the pressing problems of the day. We don't have to look far to see visible proof of this. I hope the Fund will review its management and administrative procedures for needed modification and change several of which I have suggested above.

As for the current economic situation in the United States, what a pity—it's all a result of greed. Write it on the wall: As a result of the debacle within the financial sector I predict the U.S. will lose its preeminence as the most financially reliable nation in the world. A position which previously saw so much of the world's financial transactions being dollar based. Our country's political ineptness and complete disregard for adequate control of the financial sector will—in the near future—result in the transfer of confidence away from the United States to some other nation or conglomerate of nations, probably based on several oil exporting countries.

As we both hear and read, uncertainty is spreading through the worldwide financial markets, because no one knows which institutions, and to what extent, now hold the billions of bad loans, and the bonds and other investments piled on those bad loans. I fear we will all soon find out. Lets hope that the impact on the Retirement Fund will be minimal but it probably will not be.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Palau	Thundershowers	▲87	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼73
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼74
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼73

Around The Globe

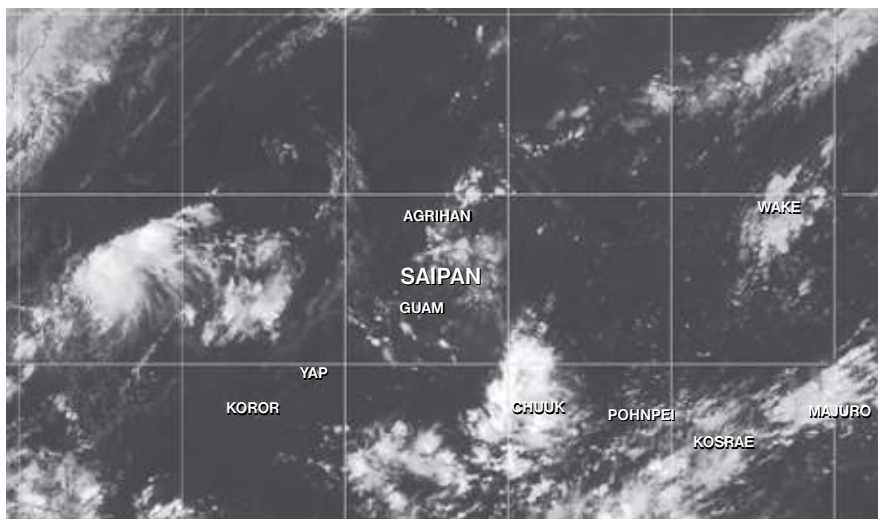
Auckland	Rain	▲64	▼52
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲66	▼45
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼75
Honolulu	Showers	▲83	▼74
London	Rain	▲67	▼52
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲84	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼76
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲60	▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼52
Osaka	Cloudy	▲70	▼59
Paris	Showers	▲69	▼56
Pusan	Cloudy	▲74	▼63
Rome	Cloudy	▲72	▼56
Salem	Cloudy	▲65	▼42
San Francisco	Sunny	▲73	▼56
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼54
Tokyo	Showers	▲70	▼62
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼49

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:58AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
3:06PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
8:08PM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
11:45PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:20PM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends east-northeastward from a circulation near the Philippines to another weak circulation centered just east of Agrihan at 18N147E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near the trough axis north of Koror between 11N and 18N from 130E to 136E. Widely scattered showers are found over the CNMI north of Saipan within 60 miles of a line from 21N148E to 17N145E to 17N150E. A surface trough runs south-southeastward from the circulation near Agrihan to east of Chuuk at 8N154E then turns southward to end at EQ153E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen along the trough axis over Chuuk within 125 miles of a line from 12N152E to 6N150E. Scattered showers are forming south of Chuuk within 100 miles of a line from 6N150E to EQ154E. Surface convergence west of the trough is causing similar conditions southeast of Yap between 1N and 6N from 140E to 150E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over a large area covering Kosrae, Kwajalein and Majuro. This area is within 150 miles of a line from EQ156E to 9N170E to 7N180. An upper-level low is centered over Wake Island at 19N167E. Upper-level divergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the island within 115 miles of a line from 17N164E to 21N169E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07AM	6:02 PM
Wednesday	6:08AM	6:01 PM
Thursday	6:08AM	6:01 PM
Friday	6:08AM	6:00 PM
Saturday	6:08AM	5:59 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:33PM	11:56PM
Wednesday	1:19PM	
Thursday	2:02PM	12:49AM
Friday	2:43PM	1:41AM
Saturday	3:22PM	2:33AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844	3:15am	5:55am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Shanghai-Saipan

FM 843	7:50pm	2:15am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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As we grow older, everything is illuminated

By DEBORAH TANNEN
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Not long ago, I read that slaves made up one-fifth of the population of New York City in the 1700s. I gasped. The 18th century, which at one time sounded to me like ancient history, now feels shockingly recent. It was less than 300 years ago—less than three times the span of my father's life. And how absurdly young the United States now seems, our country's age only a little more than twice my father's when he died two years ago this month, just shy of 98. Because my father's life spanned nearly a century, my sense of time, of history and of aging have been transformed.

My father recalled attending, as a child, a Veterans' Day parade led by men who had fought in the Civil War. When I think of this, that once-distant war comes within range of my experience, through his.

I always knew that old people had been young people once, but until my parents aged, this was just an idea, not something I knew in a gut-level, automatic way. For most of my life, I saw old people as old first, people second. It wasn't until my mother and father joined their ranks that I saw old people as people first, their age a meaningless mantle laid over who they really are.

I think I now understand why former classmates often meet again years later and fall in love. They see one another as the young people they were when they first met, which means that they see one another as they see themselves—their real selves, not the senior-citizen pods who have replaced them in the eyes of the world.

At my 40th college reunion, I spied a gray-haired man across the room and wondered, "Who's that old guy, and what's he doing here?" But as I looked at him, familiar features began to emerge. As though I were watching a time-lapse film in reverse, the markers of age—the gray hair, the wrinkled skin, the extra pounds—all fell away, and the old-guy face dissolved before my eyes into the face of an 18-year-old I'd known in college. Aha, I realized with a jolt, it's Craig! That's who he is, that's who he really is. It was as if aging was a layer of makeup smeared upon his face—makeup that someone had just wiped off.

I remembered then a conversation I'd had with my father when he was in his early 90s. "Daddy," I asked, "what does it feel like to be old?" "I don't know," he replied. "I don't feel old. When I pass a mirror I think, `Who's that old man?' "

My father's own sense of time was telescoped as he aged. Though he never lost his mental acuity or wit, he often remembered past events as more recent than they were. Toward the end of his life, he referred to his mother having died a few years before. I pointed out that she'd been dead for 33 years. "Thirty-three years?!" he said in astonishment. "And she's still bugging me!"

In his last year of life, my father remarked, "When I'm walking along and thinking of people I knew, I think about them as if they're alive. Then I remember that they're dead." This comment gave substance to the cliche of people living on in memory. And so my father lives on in mine. Because he lived nearly a hundred years, history isn't history anymore.

Tannen is a professor of linguistics at Georgetown University and the author, most recently, of "You're Wearing That?: Understanding Mothers and Daughters in Conversation." Her father would have been 100 on Oct. 3. Author's e-mail: tannend@georgetown.edu.

Letters to the Editor

Clarification on mist lift OTEC concept

This is a response to Mr. Horst's letter "Making the islands totally energy- independent," which was published in the *Saipan Tribune* on Sept. 29, 2008.

I applaud Mr. Horst's enthusiasm for OTEC and his efforts, as a licensed engineer, to research the mist lift concept. I will make it clear up front that I work for a company proposing an OTEC facility to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on Saipan. I have also been directly involved with the research and development of OTEC technology for the past 23 years in Hawaii and internationally and have a Ph.D. in Ocean Engineering and OTEC specifically. Also, I am a personal friend of Dr. Stuart Ridgeway, the inventor of the mist lift concept, whom Mr. Horst comments on in his letter, and I have worked directly with him on several occasions doing research on working prototype OTEC systems at the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority for the Solar Energy Research Institute (SERI, now the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, NREL) and the Pacific International Center for High Technology Research. I am intimately familiar with Dr. Ridgeway's mist lift OTEC concept and am a big fan of its system simplicity and future potential for OTEC applications. That being said, there are several severe flaws in Mr. Horst's analysis and statements in his previous letter.

First, the mist lift OTEC concept has never been proven on any level greater than theoretical calculations and a small, laboratory scale effort. I confirmed this because I just got off the phone with Dr. Ridgeway and he knows of no other organizations actively pursuing or funding mist lift OTEC. This does not mean there isn't true merit to the concept. I believe there is, but the fact still remains it is a concept that, in Dr. Ridgeway's own words, "requires further research and development." Without any current scalable research performed on the concept, it is nearly impossible to design and finance a commercial system like this based upon purely theoretical calculations with no practical application data. Dr. Ridgeway would be the first to tell you that you cannot build commercial systems based upon pure theory without demonstrating a scalable prototype so you can work out the unforeseen "problems" that are inherent in any new design. Mist lift OTEC is far from ready to be commercialized.

Second, I take significant exception to Mr. Horst's description of the mist lift system not needing pumps to move the cold and warm water. This is completely inaccurate. Of course you need to have pumps to draw water from 1,000 meter depths from the ocean to supply the cold water. Those pumps are either traditional pumps directly driving the flow of the liquid, or vacuum compressor pumps to evacuate the chamber necessary to drive the vapor/mist flow (this applies to the warm water requirements as well). Either way, there are inherent losses and unique challenges to each method which Mr. Horst seems to suggest are exclusive to the more conventional OTEC approaches but not to the mist lift concept which, in fact, will encounter the same, if not more challenging, issues. This was also discussed and confirmed with Dr. Ridgeway.

Third, and the most important flaw in Mr. Horst's analysis in my opinion, is his conclusion that building a mist lift structure in the open ocean (at 1,000 meter depth and rising above sea level) is a minor and inexpensive effort. Anyone who has survived the Category 5 typhoons that pass through the Marianas on a fairly regular basis can understand concerns at this suggestion. You cannot simply build a huge structure like that in the open ocean, that is required to supply water from 1,000 meters depth, then lift all this water 10 to 50 meters above sea level to create a waterfall effect, which requires enormous amounts of energy, to provide a barometric head and not be exposed to one of the most ferocious forces Mother Nature has to offer—typhoon waves. This is by no means a trivial or less expensive engineering exercise and is certainly one that no intelligent investor would be willing to risk to commercialize at this very early stage of the mist lift research & development. I don't see how this is less expensive than a more conventional OTEC system placed safely on land costing a fraction of the structure itself. Even the oil companies with seemingly unlimited financial resources design their offshore drilling rigs to be elevated above the ocean surface and dangerous wave heights during storm activity – and these structures run nearly one billion dollars each.

One of the primary benefits of the OTEC system which makes it more attractive in areas of high tropical storm activity, like the Marianas, is that the mechanical systems of the process are away from the violent storm activity (on land in the case of Saipan). Wave energy, tidal energy, current energy—and the mist lift concept as presented by Mr. Horst—all have their mechanical systems in the very violent ocean environment which is an enormous engineering challenge and one that none of these technologies has been able to overcome successfully during continued exposure to high seas or storm activity as will certainly be experienced on Saipan. In more "traditional" OTEC systems, only the pipelines are exposed to this environment. There are proven methods of designing and deploying these pipelines to account for and limit their exposure to these forces of Mother Nature. More importantly, there is significant, successful experience in these conditions for land-based systems as demonstrated by NELHA in Hawaii over the past three decades (four operational pipelines providing continual service for up to 25 years through two Cat 4 hurricanes and one 6.8 earthquake).

Mr. Horst is correct on one point: OTEC as a technology is a very good fit for the Northern Marianas. It is a method of harnessing the most abundant locally available, renewable energy resource for your islands while providing an opportunity to supply affordable and sustainable potable water production as well. However, for responsible development of this technology, and to ensure its successful and reliable operation and service to the people of Saipan, it is imperative that the early stage developments use a more commercially demonstrated technology for implementation such as OTEC. This is exactly the approach that has been proposed to Saipan and CUC by our company. The OTEC process has been proven with both research and commercial success… mist lift has not. OTEC will provide successful commercial operations on Saipan, in addition to the other economic benefits OTEC brings to the community such as large scale freshwater production and aquaculture; hence, our decision to propose an OTEC system to your CUC.

The mist lift concept certainly has merit and deserves future consideration as a research opportunity. However, it is not a practical application for early stage development of this technology and certainly does not represent the best opportunity for the CUC to mitigate their energy pains or rising costs of energy for Saipan's public and private sectors.

Stephen K. Oney, PhD
Chief Technical Officer
OCEES International, Inc. (www.ocees.com)
Honolulu, HI

Clueless

After 16 years here in the Mariana Islands, I thought I've heard all the inane comments that could come from our government officials. These last two weeks have proven me wrong.

I have been watching with great intent to the recent debate of those vying for our first ever non-voting delegate from the CNMI. I forced myself, with great pain, to watch it a second time as I wanted to be sure that what I thought I had heard was actually what I did hear. Unfortunately it was in fact what I had heard.

I don't want this to sound as if I am endorsing any of the candidates, but with the exception of Pete A., does any one of the other candidates have a clue as to what the office of this delegate really entails? One answer from one of the candidates to the question "What is the first thing you would do if elected to the office of non-voting delegate?" caused my jaw to drop. The response (paraphrased) was: "The first thing I would do as the delegate from the CNMI is to pass legislation to protect the indigenous people of the CNMI."

After I picked my jaw up off the floor I said to my wife, "Does this candidate really thinks he is going to be in a position to pass anything? Does the term 'non-voting' ring a bell?" I thought this was a position for the U.S. Congress, not the Insular Affairs Office. Again, clueless.

But actually I really should not have been surprised. This seems to be the norm for the folks elected to office here on the islands.

Another mind blower this past week came from the Legislature. A proposal to amend a bill that does not even exist was brought before the floor of the Legislature. Again, clueless.

With all the chaos going on here in the CNMI, can't anyone of our elected officials deal with the problems plaguing our islands? Apparently not, silly me. People, these are folks you elect to office to do the job of making the islands a better place to live. But this is obviously not the case. Meaningful legislation means nothing. Just look busy while you're in office and get re-elected for doing nothing.

I bring all this to your attention as in the next couple weeks you will be going to the voting booths to elect our islands' first non-voting delegate to the U.S. Congress. This is one of the most important elections you will have here. The person you elect must have the credentials to work with those in office in the House of Representatives. Hopes and dreams and a high college GPA won't cut it. The person you elect must be savvy to how Washington really works and how to push the right buttons.

From all that I observed from watching the forum with these candidates, they all had stock answers but none of them really had a clue as to how they would do what they promised. When you go to vote, please remember that this person will be guiding us through the halls of Congress with the responsibility of working on programs that will formulate the future of the CNMI. This is not a classroom, courtroom or TV talk show; it is a seat in the most powerful government in the world and should be represented by someone who really recognizes that and has the credentials to make it work in the best interest of the CNMI.

Bob Emmett
Susupe, Saipan

Business

Battered financial industry faces more oversight

WASHINGTON (AP)—With the passage of the $700 billion rescue package, the financial industry will face greater congressional scrutiny in coming weeks and months.

Further-reaching regulation is almost certain. Previously obscure corners of the industry now subject to few rules, such as complex derivatives and hedge funds, could face federal supervision for the first time.

Meanwhile, heavily regulated sectors, such as banking and insurance, are likely to face greater oversight. Even some financial industry groups support federal oversight for the insurance industry, which is now regulated only at the state level.

"Clearly, next year we will have more regulation," said Scott Talbott, a lobbyist for the Financial Services Roundtable, a group of the 100 biggest companies in the industry.

Having passed the bailout bill, Congress is now shifting its attention to its next steps.

"Passing this legislation is only the beginning of our work," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., just before the House approved the package.

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., the Financial Services Committee chairman, said next year Congress will seek to overhaul housing policy and financial regulation in a legislative effort he likened to the New Deal.

AP

Pedestrians walk past a bank branch located in the headquarters building for Washington Mutual Inc. in downtown Seattle, Thursday, Oct. 2, 2008. JPMorgan Chase & Co. took over WaMu last week.

"We were the EMTs rushing to the rescue of an economy that suddenly found itself choking, but now we have to perform more serious reform," Frank said.

The bailout bill, approved by the Senate Wednesday, provides $700 billion to buy bad assets from banks and other institutions to shore up the financial industry.

Hearings that begin Monday will examine the failures of current regulations. The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, chaired by Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., will hold two hearings on the causes and effects of Lehman Brothers' bankruptcy and on the $85 billion bailout of the giant insurer American International Group Inc.

The committee will hold three more hearings this month on hedge funds, credit rating agencies and the role of regulators in the run-up to the crisis.

Former Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan has been invited to testify at the third hearing, the committee said.

Bank failures will rise next year

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Here's a safe bet for uncertain times: A lot of banks won't survive the next year of upheaval despite the U.S. government's $700 billion plan to restore order to the financial industry.

The biggest question is how many will perish and how they will be put out of their misery—in outright closures by regulators scrambling to preserve the dwindling deposit insurance fund or in fire sales made under government pressure.

Enfeebled by huge losses on risky home loans, the banking industry is now on the shakiest ground since the early 1990s, when more than 800 federally insured institutions failed in a three-year period. That was during the clean-up phase of a decade-long savings-and-loan meltdown that wound up costing U.S. taxpayers $170 billion to $205 billion, after adjusting for inflation.

The government's commitment to spend up to $700 billion buying bad debts from ailing banks is likely to save some institutions that would have otherwise died, but analysts doubt it will be enough to avert a major shakeout.

"It will help, but it's not going to be the saving grace" because a lot of banks are holding construction loans and other types of deteriorating assets that the government won't take off their books, predicted Stanford Financial analyst Jaret Seiberg. He expects more than 100 banks nationwide to fail next year.

Asian markets plunge on fears that crisis might be spreading

SINGAPORE (AP)—Asian stock markets plunged Monday as investors took scant comfort from Washington's passage of a $700 billion bank bailout and focused instead on deepening financial turmoil in Europe that threatens to slow global growth.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 average was down 4.4 percent to 10,452, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index slid 3.7 percent to 17,198.

Markets in mainland China, Australia, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand also fell sharply. Indonesia's key index plunged more than 5 percent.

Traders were spooked by Germany's announcement Sunday of a new bailout package totaling 50 billion euros ($69 billion) for Hypo Real Estate, the country's second-biggest commercial property lender, part of a scramble by European governments to save failing banks.

On Sunday, Belgian Prime Minister Yves Leterme said that France's BNP Paribas SA had committed to taking a 75-percent stake in troubled bank Fortis NV. British treasury chief Alistair Darling also said he was ready to take "pretty big steps that we wouldn't take in ordinary times" to help the country weather the credit crunch.

A dismal report Friday on the U.S. job market also added to the gloom, raising concerns about weakening American consumer demand for Asian exports.

Europeans scramble to save banks

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)—Germany became the latest country to move to allay fears about the financial meltdown, enhancing a rescue plan for Hypo Real Estate AG and guaranteeing private bank accounts as European governments scrambled on their own Sunday to save failing banks.

Chancellor Angela Merkel said that no citizen should fear for the safety of their investments. Hours later, her government announced a new bailout package totaling 50 billion euros ($69 billion) for Hypo Real Estate, Germany's second-biggest commercial property lender.

Hypo said an original euro35 billion ($48 billion) rescue plan fell apart after private lenders withdrew support, a key element to the proposal that had already been approved by the EU.

The deal was on top of the guarantees of private accounts. German Finance Ministry spokesman Torsten Albig said the unlimited guarantee covered some 568 billion euros ($785 billion) in savings and checking accounts as well as time deposits, or CDs.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Court tilts Wachovia fight toward Wells Fargo

NEW YORK (AP)—The battle for control of troubled bank Wachovia tilted toward Wells Fargo Sunday as a state appeals court blocked a lower court ruling that had favored rival bidder Citigroup. At stake is the $339 billion in Wachovia deposits and its network of more than 3,300 branches throughout the country that would solidify the winner as being in the top tier of U.S. retail banking. In the Sunday night ruling, the Appellate Division of State Supreme Court threw out an order by Justice Charles Ramos issued late Saturday at the request of Citigroup; the order would have extended the time under which Wachovia and Citigroup had to complete their deal. Citigroup, which announced on Sept. 29 that it had received federal government backing to acquire the banking assets of Wachovia Corp. for $2.1 billion, or the equivalent of about $1 a share, said it would appeal the decision.

Investors expect volatility as credit woes persist

NEW YORK (AP)—The world's financial markets face an uncertain and possibly volatile week as investors await details about how the Treasury will implement the government's financial rescue package—and watch for any further fallout from the credit crisis around the globe. The markets have switched their focus to the world economy now that the $700 billion bailout plan has become law. And there's reason for their concerns—governments across Europe are rushing to prop up failing banks. On Sunday, Germany said it would follow suit with Ireland and Greece in guaranteeing all private bank accounts. Those steps are the latest sign that the troubles of U.S. banks, which have all but paralyzed credit markets, are affecting the financial systems of other countries. Banks' hesitation to lend to one another and to many businesses and individuals is the consequence of the bad mortgage debt that the financial rescue is supposed to sweep up. But it's still unclear how quickly financial institutions will be able to hand that debt to the U.S. government and convince the markets they are healthy again. Wall Street looked to continue the volatility of last week when trading resumed Monday.

Bank of America settles lawsuit over bad mortgages

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)—Facing a lawsuit over deceptive mortgage practices, a Bank of America Corp. subsidiary has agreed to modify tens of thousands of loans to keep people in 11 states from losing their homes, the Illinois attorney general's office said Sunday. Borrowers stuck with Countrywide Financial mortgages that they can't afford could see their interest rates reduced or have the loan principal cut. Some might qualify for having to pay nothing but interest for a decade. Even people who can't afford to keep their homes with such changes will be able to get help moving to a new home.

"This is going to provide a tremendous amount of relief," said Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan. Her office and officials from California negotiated the settlement. Nine other states have also joined the settlement, and other states could sign on, said Deborah Hagan, chief of Madigan's Consumer Protection Division. If all 50 states were to join, the settlement could provide $8.7 billion in relief to 400,000 borrowers, Hagan said.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	4,544.700 Down 158.100 (-3.36%)
HONG KONG	16,863.35 Down 819.05 (-4.63 %)
JAKARTA	1,681.177 Down 151.33 (-8.26%)
TOKYO	10,473.09 Down 465.05 (-4.25%)
K. LUMPUR	1,001.26 Down 15.44 (-1.52%)
MANILA	2,499.53 Down 66.68 (-2.60%)
SINGAPORE	2,199.30 Down 97.82 (-4.26%)
SEOUL	1,358.75 Down 60.9 (-4.29%)
BANGKOK	569.88 Down 20.17 (-3.42%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	10,325.38 -157.47
NASDAQ	1,947.39 0.00
S&P	1,099.23 0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.3369
British Pound	0.5694
Canadian Dollar	1.0909
Chinese Renminbi	6.8542
Euro	0.7368
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7716
Indian Rupee	47.4300
Indonesian Rupiah	9,570.0000
Japanese Yen	103.6500
Malaysian Ringgit	3.4860
New Zealand Dollar	1.5433
Philippine Peso	47.425
Singapore Dollar	1.4602
South Korean Won	1,267.5000
Swiss Franc	1.1400
Taiwan Dollar	32.3330
Thailand Baht	34.3750

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Palin's words may backfire on McCain

By DOUGLASS K. DANIEL
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

ANALYSIS

WASHINGTON (AP)—By claiming that Democrat Barack Obama is "palling around with terrorists" and doesn't see the U.S. like other Americans, vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin targeted key goals for a faltering campaign.

And though she may have scored a political hit each time, her attack was unsubstantiated and carried a racially tinged subtext that John McCain himself may come to regret.

First, Palin's attack shows that her energetic debate with rival Joe Biden may be just the beginning, not the end, of a sharpened role in the battle to win the presidency.

"Our opponent ... is someone who sees America, it seems, as being so imperfect, imperfect enough, that he's palling around with terrorists who would target their own country," Palin told a group of donors in Englewood, Colo. A deliberate attempt to smear Obama, McCain's ticket-mate echoed the line at three separate events Saturday.

"This is not a man who sees America like you and I see America," she said. "We see America as a force of good in this world. We see an America of exceptionalism."

Obama isn't above attacking McCain's character with loaded words, releasing an ad on Sunday that calls the Arizona Republican "erratic"—a hard-to miss suggestion that McCain's age, 72, might be an issue.

"Our financial system in turmoil," an announcer says in Obama's new ad. "And John McCain? Erratic in a crisis. Out of touch on the economy."

A harsh and plainly partisan judgment, certainly, but not on the level of suggesting that a fellow senator is un-American and even a friend of terrorists.

AP
Republican vice presidential candidate Gov. Sarah Palin speaks during a rally in Omaha, Neb., Sunday, Oct. 5, 2008.

In her character attack, Palin questions Obama's association with William Ayers, a member of the Vietnam-era Weather Underground. Her reference was exaggerated at best if not outright false. No evidence shows they were "pals" or even close when they worked on community boards years ago and Ayers hosted a political event for Obama early in his career.

Obama, who was a child when the Weathermen were planting bombs, has denounced Ayers' radical views and actions.

With her criticism, Palin is taking on the running mate's traditional role of attacker, said Rich Galen, a Republican strategist.

"There appears to be a newfound sense of confidence in Sarah Palin as a candidate, given her performance the other night," Galen said. "I think that they are comfortable enough with her now that she's got the standing with the electorate to take off after Obama."

Second, Palin's incendiary charge draws media and voter attention away from the worsening economy. It also comes after McCain supported a pork-laden Wall Street bailout plan in spite of conservative anger and his own misgivings.

"It's a giant changing of the subject," said Jenny Backus, a Democratic strategist. "The problem is the messenger. If you want to start throwing fire bombs, you don't send out the fluffy bunny to do it. I think people don't take Sarah Palin seriously."

The larger purpose behind Palin's broadside is to reintroduce the question of Obama's associations. Millions of voters, many of them open to being swayed to one side or the other, are starting to pay attention to an election a month away.

For the McCain campaign, that makes Obama's ties to Ayers as well as convicted felon Antoin "Tony" Rezko and the controversial minister Jeremiah Wright ripe for renewed criticism. And Palin brings a fresh voice to the argument.

Effective character attacks have come earlier in campaigns. In June 1988, Republican George H.W. Bush criticized Democrat Michael Dukakis over the furlough granted to Willie Horton, a convicted murderer who then raped a woman and stabbed her companion. Related TV ads followed in September and October.

The Vietnam-era Swift Boat veterans who attacked Democrat John Kerry's war record started in the spring of 2004 and gained traction in late summer.

Douglass K. Daniel is a writer and editor with the Washington bureau of The Associated Press.

Defense renews bid to end Stevens trial

WASHINGTON (AP)—Attorneys for Sen. Ted Stevens on Sunday renewed their effort to get a federal corruption case against the veteran Alaska lawmaker thrown out, saying prosecutors manipulated the story of their star witness to undermine the defense.

"Until today, defense counsel have refrained from alleging intentional misconduct by the government," the lawyers wrote in court papers. "We can no longer do so in good conscience."

U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan rejected a similar bid for a mistrial or dismissal on Friday after prosecutors said they would share with the defense documents that were mistakenly withheld.

Stevens, 84, is charged with lying on senate financial disclosure forms about more than $250,000 in home renovations and other gifts from oil pipeline magnate Bill Allen. The senator's trial had been expected to continue Monday with Allen returning to the witness stand.

The latest mid-trial motion to end the trial says the newly disclosed documents show Allen originally told investigators in 2007 that he believed Stevens would have paid for work on a mountain cabin if billed—proof, the defense says, that the senator never intended to hide anything.

Rather than turn over the first statement to the defense as required by rules of evidence, the government "intentionally procured from Allen a contradictory statement" in a follow-up telephone interview this year, and then "concealed its actions" from the court, the defense papers say.

In an initial response, prosecutors wrote, "Contrary to all of the theatrics and hyperbole from the defense, no one has attempted to hide evidence or hold back any discoverable item."

Judge Sullivan ordered the government to file its full response by 8 a.m. Monday. He scheduled a hearing on the defense motion for 9 a.m.

Testifying as part of a deal in which he pleaded guilty to bribing state legislators, Allen has told jurors he did not have the heart to bill his buddy for the work done by his company, VECO Corp. Stevens sometimes asked for bills, Allen said. But Allen said he was informed by a mutual friend that the senator made the requests simply to cover his tracks.

RI schools required to teach about dating violence

NORTH KINGSTOWN, R.I. (AP)—Ann Burke saw signs of trouble with her daughter's boyfriend.

He'd incessantly call her at night, keep her from her family, and, ultimately, physically abuse her during a tumultuous relationship that ended with her death three years ago.

Burke's 23-year-old daughter, Lindsay, may not have understood the dynamics of an abusive relationship, but her death is helping to ensure that other young people do.

A new law in Rhode Island called the Lindsay Ann Burke Act requires all public middle and high schools to teach students about dating violence in their health classes.

The initiative was spearheaded by Burke and her husband, Chris, who say schools should be obligated to teach teens the warning signs of abusive relationships and broach the subject head-on so victims feel empowered to get help and leave violent partners.

"If this could happen to her, this could happen to anyone," said Ann Burke, a health teacher who runs a memorial fund to raise money for dating violence workshops for parents and educators.

One other state, Texas, mandates unspecified awareness education on dating violence for students and parents, while several other states encourage it. But the Rhode Island measure goes further by requiring the topic be incorporated annually into the curriculum for students in seventh through 12th grade.

Burke says such education would have allowed her daughter to recognize the danger in her relationship earlier. Though her daughter left her boyfriend several times, she didn't change her phone number or have a plan for safely cutting off contact for good.

She also believed she could be friends with her boyfriend if the romance ended.

"I said, `No, he said that to you before, Lindsay. You can't just be friends,'" Burke recalled.

ACROSS THE NATION

Doctors: No hamsters or exotic pets for young kids

CHICAGO (AP)—Warning: young children should not keep hedgehogs as pets—or hamsters, baby chicks, lizards and turtles, for that matter—because of risks for disease. That's according to the nation's leading pediatricians' group in a new report about dangers from exotic animals. Besides evidence that they can carry dangerous and sometimes potentially deadly germs, exotic pets may be more prone than cats and dogs to bite, scratch or claw—putting children younger than 5 particularly at risk, the report says. Young children are vulnerable because of developing immune systems plus they often put their hands in their mouths. That means families with children younger than 5 should avoid owning "nontraditional" pets. Also, kids that young should avoid contact with these animals in petting zoos or other public places, according to the report from the American Academy of Pediatrics. The report appears in the October edition of the group's medical journal, Pediatrics.

AP Investigation: Ike environmental toll apparent

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hurricane Ike's winds and massive waves destroyed oil platforms, tossed storage tanks and punctured pipelines. The environmental damage only now is becoming apparent: At least a half million gallons of crude oil spilled into the Gulf of Mexico and the marshes, bayous and bays of Louisiana and Texas, according to an analysis of federal data by The Associated Press. In the days before and after the deadly storm, companies and residents reported at least 448 releases of oil, gasoline and dozens of other substances into the air and water and onto the ground in Louisiana and Texas. The hardest hit places were industrial centers near Houston and Port Arthur, Texas, as well as oil production facilities off Louisiana's coast, according to the AP's analysis. "We are dealing with a multitude of different types of pollution here ... everything from diesel in the water to gasoline to things like household chemicals," said Larry Chambers, a petty officer with the U.S. Coast Guard Command Center in Pasadena, Texas.

Fossett plane recovery might not resume this year

MAMMOTH LAKES, Calif. (AP)—California officials say recovery efforts around the site of adventurer Steve Fossett's downed plane might not resume until summer. Snowfall ended the search in the Sierra Nevada on Friday. Madera County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Erica Stuart says she does not expect weather conditions to improve enough for crews to return to the site this year. Authorities say they completed most of what they needed to do Friday when they removed debris from Fossett's plane and found three more bone fragments. The bone fragments will be sent to a lab to determine whether they are human and a match for Fossett. Fossett vanished in September 2007 during what was supposed to be a short pleasure flight. Wreckage from his plane was discovered last week.

Asia

China detains 6 more people in milk scandal

BEIJING (AP)—Authorities have detained six more people in China's contaminated milk scandal, officials said Monday, as the government continued its efforts to restore public trust in Chinese-made food products.

Word of the detentions came a day after health officials in Hong Kong found high levels of the industrial chemical melamine at the center of the scandal in chocolate made in China by British candy maker Cadbury.

The suspects were detained in Hohhot in northern China's Inner Mongolia region and accused of mixing melamine into raw milk, a city spokeswoman said. The spokeswoman, who refused to give her name as is common with Chinese bureaucrats, said the six were being interrogated. She declined to say when the detentions took place or give other details.

The official Xinhua News Agency said the detentions followed an investigation into two major Chinese milk companies based in Inner Mongolia. The move brings the number of people being held in connection with the tainting scandal to 32.

Milk powder containing melamine has been blamed for killing four babies and sickening more than 54,000 children with kidney stones and other illnesses in China. The scandal has sparked global concern about Chinese food imports and recalls in several countries of Chinese-made products, including milk powder, cookies and candies.

In Hong Kong, officials said Sunday they found melamine in samples of two chocolate products made by Cadbury at its Beijing factory that are among 11 Chinese-made products already recalled by the company in parts of Asia and the Pacific.

Hong Kong's Center for Food Safety said Cadbury's Dairy Milk Hazelnut Chocolate Bulk Pack contained 56 parts per million of melamine, while Dairy Milk Cookies Chocolate contained 6.9 parts per million. The city's legal limit for melamine is 2.5 parts per million.

Calls to Cadbury offices in London and the Asia-Pacific went unanswered Sunday.

AP

A woman with her baby looks at powdered milk products with notice boards of "no melamine" displayed inside a supermarket in Chengdu of Sichuan province in China, Friday, Oct. 3, 2008.

Pakistani politician's family home escapes rockets

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—Rockets landed near a family home of a top politician in Pakistan's northwest Sunday, while elsewhere in the volatile region Taliban anger over a suspected U.S. missile strike indicated a top militant may have been killed, officials said.

The two rockets damaged three homes Sunday in the town of Mardan but missed that of provincial chief minister Amir Haider Khan Hoti's family. No one was hurt, officials said.

Several politicians in the North West Frontier Province have been targeted by insurgents. Hoti was in the nearby provincial capital, Peshawar, at the time of the attack, according to the province's information minister.

"The situation is very complex," said the minister, Mian Iftikhar Hussain. "We expect more such incidents. They are not going to be stopped here. We are facing a war-like situation."

The attack Friday on the North Waziristan tribal region was believed to have killed several Arab fighters but government officials have been notably quiet.

However, two Pakistani intelligence officials said insurgents were moving aggressively in the area while using harsh language against local residents, including calling them "salable commodities"—an accusation of spying.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistani politician's family home escapes rockets

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—Rockets landed near a family home of a top politician in Pakistan's northwest Sunday, while elsewhere in the volatile region Taliban anger over a suspected U.S. missile strike indicated a top militant may have been killed, officials said. The two rockets damaged three homes Sunday in the town of Mardan but missed that of provincial chief minister Amir Haider Khan Hoti's family. No one was hurt, officials said. Several politicians in the North West Frontier Province have been targeted by insurgents. Hoti was in the nearby provincial capital, Peshawar, at the time of the attack, according to the province's information minister. "The situation is very complex," said the minister, Mian Iftikhar Hussain. "We expect more such incidents. They are not going to be stopped here. We are facing a war-like situation."

Military: Suicide bomber kills 22 in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—A suspected Tamil Tiger suicide bomber blew up an opposition party office Monday in a town in northern Sri Lanka killing about 20 people, including a former army officer, the military said. Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said retired Maj. Gen. Janaka Perera and his wife were among nearly 22 people killed in Monday's blast in Anuradhapura town. Another 69 people were wounded, he said. Perera, who led successful campaigns in the civil war against separatist Tamil Tiger rebels, won a seat in the country's North-Central provincial assembly in August to become its opposition leader. The suicide blast came hours after a roadside bomb killed two civilians and wounded another in a village near Anuradhapura. Nanayakkara blamed the rebels for the Sunday night blast that struck a vehicle transporting fish on a remote road. He said the military usually closes the road to civilians at night, so the attackers may have mistaken the civilian vehicle for a military one.

World

Egypt's top diplomat in Iraq; 11 die in US raid

BAGHDAD (AP)—Egypt sent its foreign minister to Iraq Sunday for the first time in nearly two decades in a sign of growing Arab acceptance of the country's Shiite-led government.

In the north, 11 people including women and children died during a U.S. raid on a house in Mosul, where an extremist detonated a suicide vest—a stark reminder that Iraq still faces security challenges despite the drop in violence.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit said his visit was aimed at helping Iraq face its "many challenges," including extremism, violence and sectarian hatred.

"And we hope that peace and security will prevail in Iraq," Aboul Gheit said. He told reporters Egypt was ready to open a new embassy and help with reconstruction of Iraq's oil industry.

It was the first visit to Iraq by an Egyptian foreign minister since 1990, when President Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and his regime was largely shunned by Arab governments.

The United States has been urging the mostly Sunni-run Arab countries to shore up relations with Shiite-led Iraq as a counterweight to the influence of Shiite-dominated Iran. But the Arabs were reluctant during the height of Shiite-Sunni fighting, which receded last year after the U.S. troop buildup.

In recent months, leaders of Jordan and Lebanon have visited Iraq, along with the foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates, which has sent an ambassador. Regional powerhouse Saudi Arabia has remained on the sidelines, saying it was waiting until security improves.

Russian troops start dismantling Georgia posts

NADARBAZEVI, Georgia (AP)—Russian troops on Sunday began dismantling positions in the so-called security zones inside Georgia that they have occupied since August's war, Georgian and EU officials said, a sign Russia will fulfill its pledged pullback.

Moscow faces a Friday deadline for pulling back its troops under the terms of a deal brokered by French President Nicolas Sarkozy on behalf of the European Union. Hundreds of EU observers began monitoring Russia's compliance last week.

A pullback would likely mean at least a mild reduction of tensions between Russia and the West following their worst confrontation since the Soviet collapse. But substantial points of dispute remain.

Russia was dismantling positions Sunday inside what it calls security zones, extending roughly four miles inside uncontested Georgian territory.

But Moscow vows to keep thousands of its troops stationed in two separatist Georgian regions that it recognizes as independent countries—South Ossetia and Abkhazia—which appears to stretch the terms of the cease-fire and which the Georgian government denounces.

Tensions also rose sharply on Friday when a car bomb killed nine people when it exploded outside Russian forces' headquarters in Tskhinvali, the capital of South Ossetia.

South Ossetian President Eduard Kokoity on Sunday said investigators had found demonstrable "Georgian traces" in the explosion and said security would be tightened by reducing the number of crossing points from Georgia into the republic to two, the Interfax news agency reported.

WORLD BRIEFS

Olmert to urge Moscow: Don't arm Israel's enemies

JERUSALEM (AP)—Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, traveling to Russia this week on one of his last diplomatic missions, said Sunday he would urge Moscow not to sell sophisticated weapons to Israel's enemies. Iran is interested in buying anti-aircraft missiles that could cripple any military strike against its nuclear program. Israel is also afraid Moscow would sell Syria the same missile defense system. In an overture before the trip, Israel's Cabinet voted Sunday to recognize Russia's claim to property in downtown Jerusalem. Russia laid claim to the site, named for the son of a Russian czar, on behalf of the Russian Orthodox Church. Olmert travels to Russia on Monday with little diplomatic clout: Within weeks, he is to step aside, driven from office by multiple corruption allegations. But he told his Cabinet on Sunday that he would use the two-day visit to bring up security issues of long-standing concern in his talks with Russian leaders.

Shootings sour municipal elections in Brazil

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP)—Isolated shootings in Brazil soured Sunday's municipal elections that President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's allies hope will give them a leg up on 2010's presidential vote. Boosted by Silva's popularity amid an extended economic boom that has raised salaries and lifted millions out of poverty, the ruling Workers Party is seeking to increase its control of local governments, especially in the 26 state capitals. Analysts say such gains will help the party in its bid to hang on to the presidency after Silva is termed out in 2010. With 82 percent of the vote counted in Sao Paulo, Latin America's largest city, current Mayor Gilberto Kassab and former Tourism Minister Marta Suplicy of Silva's Workers Party were poised to advance to an Oct. 26 runoff.

5 police held in deadly clash at Mexican ruins

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (AP)—Five state police officers were arrested in southern Mexico on Sunday in connection with a deadly raid to dislodge protesters from a Mayan archaeological site. The five officers led an operation on Friday to remove hundreds of mostly indigenous villagers who had occupied the entrance to the Chinkultic ruins for nearly a month, the Chiapas state Justice Department said. The officers could face homicide charges. Protesters fought back with sticks, rocks and machetes, the department said. They wrested 75 guns from the officers and poured gasoline on others, threatening to set them on fire. State Justice Secretary Amador Rodriguez Lozano said four villagers were killed and two are missing. Two dozen other people were injured, including 16 police officers. Indigenous leaders said the two missing protesters were found dead, bringing the toll to six.

Overdrive

2008 Kia Rondo Wagon: Spectacularly ordinary

THE WASHINGTON POST

The 2008 Kia Rondo compact family wagon resembles a minivan. Kia is to be commended for producing such an affordable car equipped with premium safety technology offered as standard equipment.

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—I've changed. Traditional automotive luxury no longer impresses me.

Expensive vehicles that get relatively few miles per gallon leave me cold. They make no sense at all. The same goes for automobiles that can move from 0 to 60 miles per hour at lightning speed. What is the point?

I and the two co-producers of this column have gotten into trouble going faster than the law allows. My wife cried her way out of a ticket; Ria Manglapus, this column's associate for vehicle evaluations, was going way too fast to escape penalty. Luckily, it was her first-ever speeding offense, and her penalty was reduced.

I've paid several speeding fines. There is nothing pretty, honorable, glorious or fun about that waste. It was salary and time ill-spent. I've learned my lesson, and it is this: A car or truck does not have to be ridiculously expensive, nor excessively powerful and fast in order to be enjoyed.

It could be as spectacularly ordinary as this week's subject vehicle—the 2008 Kia Rondo wagon.

I dismissed the Rondo a year ago, having succumbed more to its banality than I was seduced by what turns out to be its many virtues.

But that was before soaring U.S. fuel prices and a collapsing national economy exposed the ugliness of motorized greed. My associates and I thus decided to take another look at the Rondo, to evaluate it in the context of a vehicle designed to deliver maximum good at minimum cost. We like what we found the second time around.

First, overall craftsmanship is excellent. Fit and finish are on point. Interior materials are high-quality.

Second, there is the matter of thoughtfulness, such as the manner in which an interior is laid out. In the Rondo, it's all good. All gauges, dials and switches are easily readable and accessible. There are multiple, well-formed storage bins. The middle and rear seats are easy to raise and lower; and when they are lowered, they fall flat, creating the perfect load floor.

Third, Kia, a subsidiary of South Korea's Hyundai Motor, takes a democratic approach to safety—making premium protective technology available in a modestly priced vehicle. Standard safety equipment in the Rondo includes four-wheel disc brakes with antilock protection; side air bags with full-length ceiling bags protecting the heads and necks of passengers in the middle and the rear; active head restraints designed to reduce the possibility of whiplash in a rear-end collision; electronic stability control, and a tire-pressure monitoring system.

As a result, the Rondo gets the U.S. government's top rating—five stars—for frontal crash protection for driver and passenger. It gets a five-star side-crash protection rating for the front-seat passenger and a four-star side-crash protection rating for passengers in the rear. The Rondo also gets a good rollover protection grade—four stars from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, all for a little front-wheel-drive wagon with a base price near $20,000.

The Rondo is offered with an economical 162-horsepower, inline four-cylinder engine and a more authoritative 182-horsepower V-6. Both engines get the job done. The V-6, tested for this column, adds some joy to the work.

The Rondo isn't fancy. But it is substantial. That makes it a solid bargain in the current economic environment. And there's something remarkably attractive about that.

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINTS
The Rondo has seats for seven. But the two rearmost seats are usable only for very tiny people.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
There is nothing exceptional here — good or bad. The Rondo offers reliable, decent performance in all three categories.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
It is a little wagon that resembles a minivan. The styling is vanilla.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The Rondo is a front-engine, front-wheel-drive, compact family wagon with four side doors and a rear hatch. Built on a compact car platform, it is designed primarily for urban-suburban commuting.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSION
The tested Rondo EX comes with a 2.7-liter, 24-valve V-6 that develops 182 horsepower at 6,000 revolutions per minute and 182 foot-pounds of torque at 4,000 rpm. The engine is mated to a five-speed transmission that can be shifted automatically or manually.

CAPACITIES
Maximum cargo capacity is 35 cubic feet with the rear seats down. The Rondo can be equipped to tow a trailer weighing 1,000 pounds. Its fuel tank holds 15.8 gallons of recommended regular unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE
You are looking at 18 miles per gallon in the city and 26 mpg on the highway with the V-6 engine. The inline four-cylinder model increases those numbers by 1 mile per gallon in the city with little significant advantage on the highway.

SAFETY
Kia is to be commended for producing affordable vehicles with premium safety technology — four-wheel disc brakes with antilock protection, electronic brake-force distribution, active head restraints, side and head air bags, electronic stability control — offered as standard equipment.

SAFETY CONCERN
The third-row seats constitute a $500 option. Don't buy them. Those seats are too close to the rear hatch, making their occupants especially vulnerable in a rear-end collision.

PRICE
The base price on the 2008 Kia Rondo EX V-6 is $20,195. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $18,895. Price as tested is $24,045, including $3,250 in options . Dealer's price as tested is $22,295. The Rondo is being offered with a $2,000 rebate. Prices are sourced from Kia, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE
The Rondo is an excellent, affordable urban wagon with good reliability and safety and reasonable fuel economy. It gets a strong "buy" recommendation here.

Credit crisis adds to pressures on auto dealers

NEW YORK (AP)—Hundreds of thousands of new cars and trucks that would have quickly made their way to people's driveways a year ago are now stacking up on dealer lots across the country, with potential buyers worried about whether they'll keep their jobs, be able to pay for gas, or qualify for a car loan.

For auto dealers already suffering under the worst U.S. sales downturn in 15 years, the increasing cost of the credit they use to keep inventory in their showrooms means every Ford Focus and Jeep Grand Cherokee with a sale sticker in the window is chipping away at dealers' razor-thin profit margins every day and threatening to send more of them out of business.

Like the banks that have been collapsing under the weight of the credit crunch, auto dealers are highly leveraged, making them some of its first victims, said Sheldon Sandler, founder of Bel Air Partners, a New Jersey-based firm that helps car dealers find options when they want out of the business.

"Car dealers are like the canaries in the coal mine," he said. "The energy crisis had been affecting their revenue for a while. And now with the credit crisis, in some cases, banks are turning off their credit."

Paul Taylor, chief economist with the National Automobile Dealers Association, said Friday that dealership closures spiked in September, prompted him to raise his forecast of closures. He now expects 500 to 600 of the group's 20,770 dealerships to shut their doors this year, up from previous estimates of 300 to 400.

About 430 dealerships closed last year and 295 closed up shop in 2006, according to the NADA.

Car dealers get vehicles for their lots through a practice called floorplan financing, where the funds needed to pay for inventory are supplied by a lender. The longer the vehicle goes unsold and the higher the interest charged, the more it costs the dealer.

Ray Ciccolo, president of Village Automotive Group in the Boston area, said his financing costs have doubled in recent years. That's had a "disastrous" effect, he said, on his six dealerships that sell Cadillac, Saab, Volvo, Honda, Hummer, Nissan and Hyundai vehicles.

CRUISIN'

1942 Ford Truck

By GREG ZYLA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I have sent you a picture of my 1942 pre-war Ford pickup truck. It had two windshields, no rear bumper, white trim and a raised emblem on the side. It was a deluxe model. So can you tell me the engine specs of my truck? -- Edward Anderson, Macedon, N.Y.

A: Edward, you truck's engine is probably a 221-inch V-8 Flathead. Original cylinder heads for 1938 to 1942 were generally marked with "81A" for Ford or Mercury car engines thru 1941 or, in your case, "81T" for truck engines from 1938 to 1942. Ford did not produce any vehicles following the 1942 model until 1946 to assist in the war effort.

As for original engine paint colors, the Ford and Mercury engines through 1940 were a dark green. Ford cars continued the color until 1942, while Mercury engines were dark blue in color from 1941 thru 1948. Postwar Ford engines were dark blue through 1948. Ford truck engines were generally the same as Ford cars during the years of this group. You have a great truck in your possession.

Q: Greg, what about the Kaiser Manhattan? My mom had one, and it was beautiful. I'm retired and living in Florida and enjoy your old car columns. -- Carl L., New Port Richey

A: I loved the Kaiser automobiles, and once said that had it not been for the economic power of the Big Three (Ford, GM and Chrysler), Kaiser was probably the best of the rest that went out of business in car manufacturing.

Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to gzyla@ptd.net.

Life & Style

A small town in Iowa then and now

By HANK STUEVER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

THE WASHINGTON POST

Then and now: Hunter Tandy (b. 1975). "When I was a kid, I said I'd like to be buried in an 18-wheeler when I died. I still do. I always wanted to be a truck driver like my father."

OXFORD, Iowa—In the four decades he's lived in the farm town of Oxford, Iowa (population 705), Peter Feldstein, 66, has remained something of an outsider. If you weren't born there, you are eternally regarded as a newcomer by people who go back several generations. He was originally from New York, an artist, and for a long time, the town's only Jew. He taught in the art department at the University of Iowa, which is 16 miles away.

Often it felt as though Oxford and the huge campus were hundreds of miles apart. Feldstein bought two empty storefronts in downtown Oxford and restored them as studio space.

In the spring of 1984, for reasons he's not quite sure of, Feldstein decided to make a black-and-white portrait of all of his neighbors—everyone then living in Oxford, which at the time was 693 people.

He wrote them each a letter asking them to drop by, and to dress " `as you are,' not as you might look in your Sunday best." They obliged, almost all of them, from babies to senior citizens. Once all the pictures were done and arranged on foam display boards, there was a barbecue at the American Legion hall, the people of Oxford came and politely regarded themselves, and then the pictures and negatives were put away.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Kathy Tandy (b. 1952). "I make donuts at the Depot. I'm up to 11 dozen a day—chocolate cake, long johns, cream-filled bismarcks, cinnamon rolls, raspberry-filled croissants, apple turnovers, donut holes and crullers."

Stephen G. Bloom, 57, a journalism professor at Iowa, arrived at the university in 1993 and struck up a friendship with Feldstein, and visits him often in Oxford. The subject of Feldstein's photographic census came up now and again. Bloom saw some of the photos and encouraged Feldstein to think about doing it again—take portraits of as many of the same people as possible. If they are still living in Oxford, if they are still alive.

In 2005, Feldstein started shooting again, just a few people at first, and compared the results, then and now. Bloom was drawn to the pair of photos of Don Saxton, who was mayor when the first pictures were made and is mayor still. Saxton had aged a little, and had put on perhaps 10 pounds. His watch in both pictures sits midway between his wrist and elbow.

"Pat Henkelman is wearing the exact same shoes," Feldstein says. "I'm sure she bought new ones. ... (Bloom's) jaw just dropped when he saw them and he said I had to do everyone. I thought, `What's new that can be brought to these?' Well, they all have some pretty interesting stories to tell ..."

Bloom got on board. Over the next two years, Feldstein took photos of 100 people in Oxford who'd posed for him in 1984, and Bloom interviewed them, providing biographical text to what became "The Oxford Project," a new book released in September.

Here are the people of Oxford, paired with themselves in an eerie and beautiful reckoning with the past. Like any Americans, they've known happiness and quiet sadness—which they talk about in interviews with Bloom (which he then "shrink-wrapped" into concise paragraphs and showed to each participant for his or her approval). "Some of it, to my ear, just sounds like pure poetry," Bloom says, as when one woman told him she'd met her husband " `Playing euchre at the Legion hall.' I just love the sound those words make, (begin ital) playing euchre at the Legion hall."(end ital)

But this project is not precious. It is stark, almost to a point of severity. It is the Iowa that certain reporters try to bring to life every primary season in an election year, and of course fail to exactly portray while writing on the fly. Some have seen "The Oxford Project" and are reminded of the work of Studs Terkel or Mike Disfarmer. Alone, Feldstein's photographs have the allure, if not the technical quality, of August Sander's portraits of everyday Germans in the 1920s: People don't get much more real than this, and there's a heartbreaking, forensic pleasure in paging through the book to stare at the pictures for minutes at a time, looking at the thousands of ways in which time changes each of us. The first time Feldstein made pictures, there was no text, and he never pursued anything like a book or an exhibition.

With Bloom's text, the people of Oxford come alive, worthy of a Walker Evans and Dorothea Lange FSA study. They speak of trips they've taken to Las Vegas, or the comforts and limitations of life in small towns; they speak of those who've died (or fled) and people who've been born, and of the particular, almost compulsive joys, such as keeping dirt off all-terrain vehicles. "I had the world by the ass in those days," remarks Tim Hennes, at 46, regarding the picture of his strapping self at 21.

What has changed? The population of Oxford is still almost completely white. The median age has gone from 29 to almost 36. The median family income is $48,750 a year now (it was $19,050 in 1984). Median house value tops $86,300, an increase of $53,000.

More subtly, the eye picks up on clues that Oxford is not as far away from the big college town of Iowa City as it used to be. (Claim to fame: Ashton Kutcher, the movie star, has roots in these parts, and family in Oxford.) You can see a homogenizing effect in today's Oxford in some of the clothes, and sense it in some of the references to chain stores and restaurants—Oxford, meet exurbia.

And yet, Feldstein says, the town remains for its inhabitants a world apart, and it remained his home even after he retired from the university, and these are his people, and he knows them now better than he ever did. "I love to gossip," he says.

Bloom, even more of an outsider, helpfully included a list of "Oxford Truisms" he gleaned in 100 interviews:

"Everyone has the same no-fail pie crust recipe, but no one can remember where it came from. ... The names Grabin, Jiras, Hennes and Portwood are as common in Oxford as Garcia, Lee, Chen and Cohen are in big cities. ... Pliers and pocketknives are necessary tools; many men won't leave home without them. ... When someone dies in Oxford, big funerals are expected, as are casseroles."

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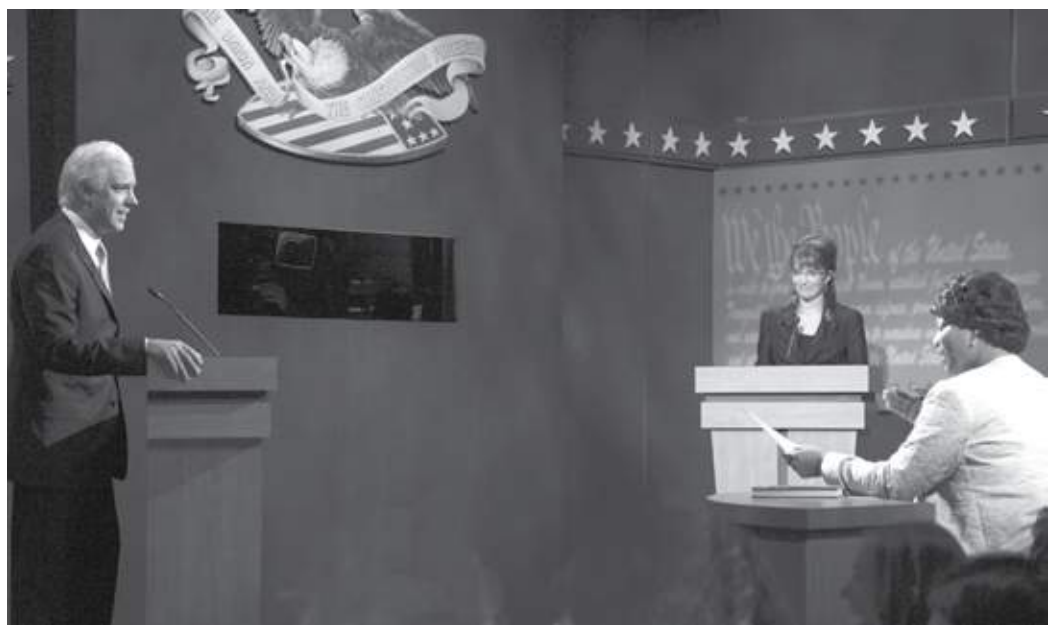
Tonya (Stratton) Wehrle (b. 1974). "As a little girl, my mother did my hair every day. She dressed me in frilly dresses. I was immaculate." Wehrle in 1984 and in 2005.

‘SNL’ sends up VP debate with Fey, Queen Latifah

NEW YORK (AP)—It’s starting to feel like Tina Fey is running for vice president.

Fey again returned to “Saturday Night Live” to play Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin as the sketch comedy show continued to pull out all the stops in its election year season. Queen Latifah dropped by to portray Thursday’s debate moderator, PBS’s Gwen Ifill, and cast member Jason Sudeikis stepped into the role of Democratic vice presidential candidate Joe Biden.

The “SNL” take on the week’s political events has become a dependable part of the news cycle this fall, offering near-immediate parodies of the presidential candidates, Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain, and their running mates. The show - particularly the opening sketches - have resonated with higher ratings for the NBC program and increased traffic on its Web site where early-to-bed viewers catch the talked-about sketches in the days after.



AP

Tina Fey, center, again returned to “Saturday Night Live” Oct. 4, 2008 to play Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin as the sketch comedy show continued to pull out all the stops in its election year season. Queen Latifah, right, dropped by to portray Thursday’s debate moderator, PBS’s Gwen Ifill, and cast member Jason Sudeikis stepped into the role of Democratic vice presidential candidate Joe Biden.

Saturday night’s opening sketch of the VP debate appeared likely to garner similar buzz thanks to Fey’s popular Palin impression. Winking and giving answers not always directly related to Queen Latifah’s questions, Fey’s Palin said that if she was elected, her decisions would be guided by considering “what would a maverick do?”

At the end of the segment, she asked with flute in hand, “Are we not doing the talent portion?”

Palin was runnerup in the 1984 Miss Alaska contest.

Sudeikis, with hair slicked back and a tight-fitting suit, portrayed Biden as conflicted in his feelings for McCain, whom he called “a raging maniac and a dear, dear friend.”

Saturday’s “SNL” concluded the opening run of four straight shows - including three with guest appearances from Fey, a former cast member and head writer for “SNL” whose day job is starring in, producing and writing for NBC’s “30 Rock.” The network has said her appearances on “SNL” are being decided on a week-to-week basis.

The show has shown its willingness this fall to cast from beyond its current lineup. Last week, former cast member Chris Parnell returned to play Jim Lehrer, the moderator of the first presidential debate.

“SNL”—which was hosted Saturday by Anne Hathaway with the Killers performing—will get its first weekend off this week. But it will still capitalize on election campaign fodder with the first of three prime-time “Weekend Update” specials beginning Thursday.

Schieffer: Grand Ole Opry debut a pressure cooker

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—CBS News’ Bob Schieffer said moderating the debate between presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama won’t be nearly as unnerving as his Grand Ole Opry debut was Sunday.

“I was nervous coming between Trisha Yearwood and Brad Paisley. I may be moderating the third presidential debate, but I’m not feeling near the pressure,” Schieffer told the crowd at the Ryman Auditorium, where he performed on the long-running country music program with the band Honky Tonk Confidential.

Schieffer stood in front of the Opry’s red barn backdrop wearing jeans and boots and, at times, a white cowboy hat. He sang a humorous song about becoming a TV anchorman set to the tune of “Hot Rod Lincoln.” Later, he joined Paisley for the chorus of Paisley’s hit “Alcohol.”

“Tonight I feel like I’m in some sort of parallel universe,” he told the audience, mostly journalists in town to cover the Tuesday debate at Belmont University.

The show, a special edition of the Opry, was organized by the university and Gaylord Entertainment and featured Belmont alum Yearwood, Paisley, Josh Turner and Julie Roberts. Darius Rucker, longtime frontman for the pop/rock group Hootie & The Blowfish and now a country artist with a No. 1 song and album, also performed.

“There’s no debating here tonight,” Turner said, “Nashville is the home of country music.”

The Grand Ole Opry, which celebrates its 83rd year this month, is no stranger to presidential politics. Several presidents have paid a visit to the folksy show, with its cloggers and corny jokes.

On Sunday, the performers refrained from talking politics, though Paisley did joke about a so-called smear campaign in Tennessee involving Obama’s campaign signs.

“They’re putting a G in front” so they read Go Bama, “and it’s wrong,” Paisley deadpanned.

Mostly, though, the stars shared the sentiments of Yearwood who said, “I’m proud to see the debate happen for Belmont and for Nashville.”

Madonna gives fans a treat with ‘Sticky & Sweet’

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP MUSIC WRITER

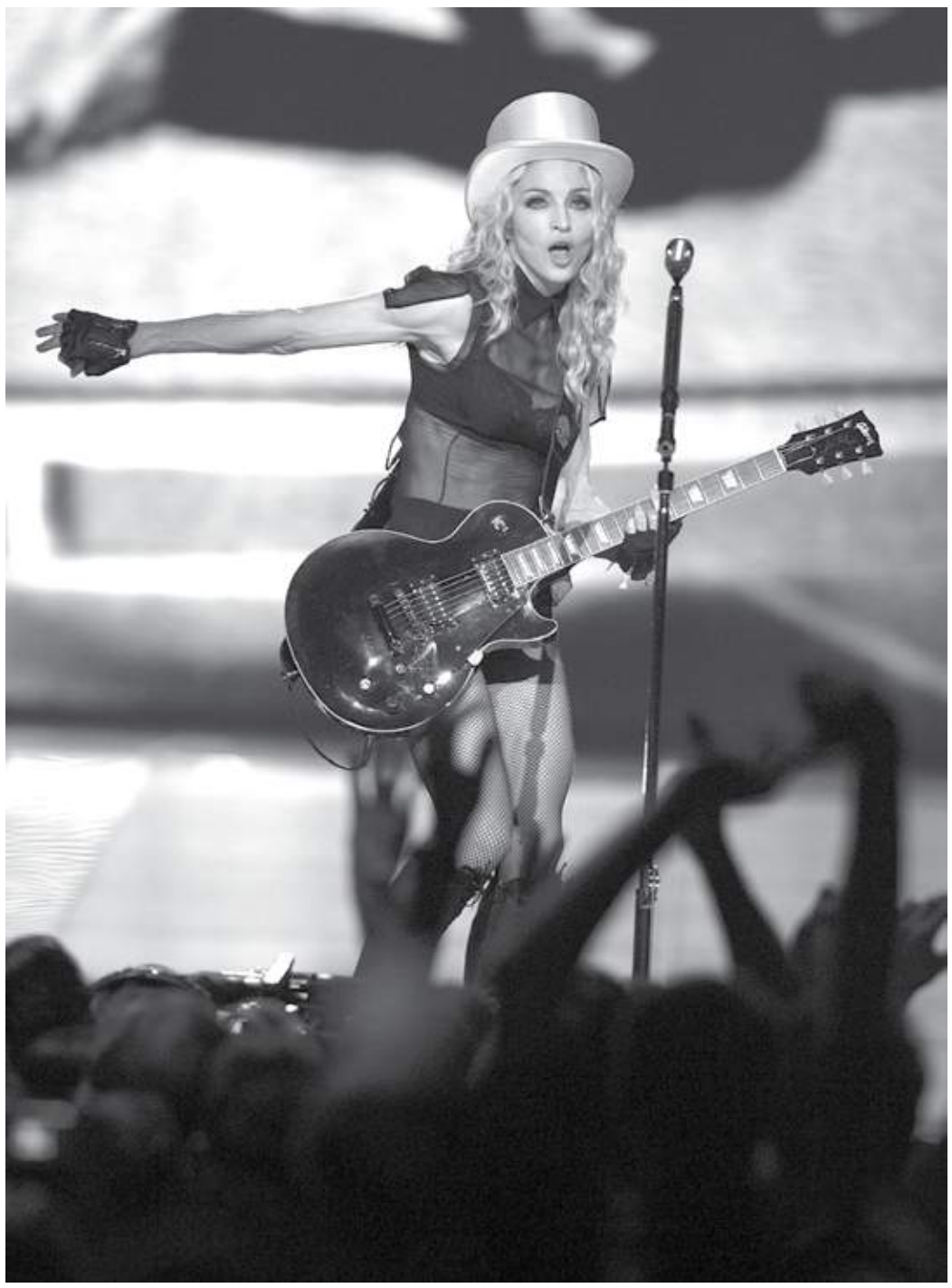
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—In a show defined by throbbing dance music, tight choreography, spectacular stage sets and stunning visuals, perhaps the most stirring moment during the kickoff concert to Madonna’s “Sticky & Sweet” tour came when the Material Girl stood onstage with just her guitar and a few musicians for an acoustic set.

As she sang the emotional song from her movie “Evita,” Madonna couldn’t help but wink and smile at the roaring sold-out crowd as she sang the song’s main refrain and title: “You must love me.”

Maybe that’s because she knew she was right. Even the superstar’s most cynical critics couldn’t walk away from her two-hour extravaganza at the Izod Center on Saturday night without being thoroughly wowed. It was not only the spectacle of the concert, but the performer herself, as she reasserted her musical relevance and dominance in her 25th year in the spotlight.

Madonna is not the world’s most gifted singer or dancer or even musician, but she may be its greatest performer. From the moment she first appeared on stage, looking taut and chiseled in a black bra and shorts with a mesh layer overlay, she turned the arena into a massive dance club and a nonstop party. The zooming “Candy Shop,” off her most recent CD “Hard Candy,” set it off as Madonna strutted onstage flanked by an army of dancers. While they may have executed the show’s most intricate dance moves, the ever-fit Madonna dazzled on her own with sinewy steps that belied her AARP-status.

Though the show’s first moments were devoted to her new album, it didn’t take long for her to seamlessly groove back in time, performing one of her ‘90s gems, “Human Nature.” The already funky, synthesized tune got an even funkier update, as Madonna utilized the vocoder trend with her background vocals. The unapologetic anthem was highlighted by a video that showed Madonna being watched by a security camera in an elevator; as the song went on, Britney Spears’ image intertwined with her blonde musical mentor, looking frightened and frail under the camera’s lens before striking a decidedly confident pose at the song’s end.



AP

Madonna performs during a stop on her Sticky & Sweet tour Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008, in East Rutherford, N.J.

It’s a testament to Madonna’s musical chops that her new music blended so expertly with some of her greatest hits: Elements of “4 Minutes” were mashed up with “Vogue” for a flashback that managed to be both classic and cutting edge. While she sang many of her classics, such as “Like a Prayer,” “La Isla Bonita,” and “Ray of Life,” those moments weren’t relegated to short renditions during the retrospective medley part of the show, like many veterans do. They were given full attention with colorful, dazzling displays and new arrangements that made them seem as exciting and fresh as when they first made their debut. “Get Into the Groove” was re-imagined with the help of a DJ, a double-Dutch playing Madonna and cartoons by the late Keith Haring. During one of her many guitar-playing moments, she gave a rocked out performance of “Borderline” to the feverishly energetic crowd.

While the “Sweet & Sticky” tour would have been a triumph in any year, it was particularly impressive coming off her somewhat lackluster “Confessions” two years ago, which seemed more like a labored, carefully designed exercise than a joyful performance.

Audiences adopt 'Chihuahua' with $29M

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

AP
In this photo provided by Walt Disney, a chihuahua is served dinner in a scene from the movie "Beverly Hills Chihuahua." The little dog brought in big audiences this weekend, making "Beverly Hills Chihuahua" the top box office hit.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Beverly Hills Chihuahua" was barking up the right tree with movie-goers, who put the Disney comedy at No. 1 for the weekend with a $29 million debut, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Featuring a talking Chihuahua with Drew Barrymore's voice, the family flick about a pampered pooch lost in Mexico led a surge of new movies that boosted Hollywood business, which generally has slumped the last two months.

The top-12 movies hauled in $95.4 million, up 42 percent from the same weekend a year ago, when "The Game Plan" was No. 1 with $16.6 million.

"We had a huge weekend," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Media By Numbers. "That's really due to the little Chihuahua. The little dog made a big difference."

The previous weekend's No. 1 movie, the DreamWorks-Paramount thriller "Eagle Eye," slipped to second-place with $17.7 million, raising its total to $54.6 million.

The PG-rated "Beverly Hills Chihuahua" took advantage of a long drought for movies aimed at families, who found the idea of a chatty Chihuahua irresistible.

"They're so cute, and they seem to have great facial expressions, so that adds to all the fun of the whole thing," said Chuck Viane, Disney's head of distribution.

Hollywood's other new wide releases had fair to poor premieres.

Sony's "Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist," starring Michael Cera and Kat Dennings as teens who fall for each other on a wild New York City night, had a sturdy No. 3 debut of $12 million.

The Warner Bros. Western "Appaloosa," which had played two weeks in a handful of theaters, expanded solidly to come in at No. 5 with $5 million. "Appaloosa" was directed by Ed Harris, who stars with Viggo Mortensen and Renee Zellweger.

Vivendi Entertainment's "An American Carol," a satire of Hollywood's liberal politics from director David Zucker ("Airplane!"), debuted at No. 9 with $3.8 million. The movie stars Kevin Farley as a Michael Moore-type filmmaker aiming to abolish the Fourth of July holiday.

Universal's "Flash of Genius," starring Greg Kinnear as the engineer who invented intermittent windshield wipers then spent decades suing automakers over the innovation, opened weakly with $2.3 million, finishing at No. 11.

Two other movies, the comedy "How to Lose Friends and Alienate People" and the apocalyptic "Blindness," both bombed.

Miramax's "Blindness," featuring Julianne Moore, Danny Glover and Mark Ruffalo in a nightmare tale about a plague of sightlessness, took in just $2 million, averaging an anemic $1,185 in 1,690 theaters.

"How to Lose Friends and Alienate People," released by MGM and starring Kirsten Dunst and Simon Pegg in a celebrity satire set at a slick magazine, did $1.4 million in 1,750 theaters for a feeble $801 average.

By comparison, "Beverly Hills Chihuahua" averaged $9,020 in 3,215 theaters; "Nick and Norah" pulled in $4,957 in 2,421 locations; "Appaloosa" did $4,799 in 1,045 cinemas; "An American Carol" took in $2,325 in 1,639 sites; and "Flash of Genius" did $2,120 in 1,098 theaters.

In narrower release, Bill Maher's documentary "Religulous" opened well, placing No. 10 with $3.5 million in 502 theaters, averaging $6,972. The Lionsgate release follows Maher as he travels the world to mock one of his favorite topics, organized religion.

1. **"Beverly Hills Chihuahua,"** $29 million.
2. **"Eagle Eye,"** $17.7 million.
3. **"Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist,"** $12 million.
4. **"Nights in Rodanthe,"** $7.4 million.
5. **"Appaloosa,"** $5 million.
6. **"Lakeview Terrace,"** $4.5 million.
7. **"Burn After Reading,"** $4.08 million.
8. **"Fireproof,"** $4.07 million.
9. **"An American Carol,"** $3.8 million.
10. **"Religulous,"** $3.5 million.

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Beverly Hills Chihuahua
Friday 4:05 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:05 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:05 7:00
Mon and Tue 4:05 7:00
Drew Barrymore (v), Andy Garcia (v)
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG
Synopsis
Chloe, a diamond-clad, bootie wearing Beverly Hills Chihuahua enjoys her luxurious lifestyle so much, she hardly notices Papi, a tough looking Chihuahua who happens to be head-over-paws for the pampered pooch. But when Chloe gets lost in the rough streets of Mexico with only a street-wise German Shepherd to help her find her way home, Papi heads south of the border—joining forces with a motley crew: two humans, a sly rat and a nervous iguana—to rescue his true love.

Blindness
Friday 4:25 7:30 9:45
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:30 9:45
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:30
Mon and Tue 4:25 7:30
Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo
Drama, Thriller • Rated R
Synopsis
It begins in a flash, as one man is instantaneously struck blind while driving home from work, his whole world suddenly turned to an eerie, milky haze. One by one, each person he encounters—his wife, his doctor, even the seemingly good Samaritan who gives him a lift home—will in due course suffer the same unsettling fate. As the contagion spreads, and panic and paranoia set in across the city, the newly blind victims of the "White Sickness" are rounded up and quarantined within a crumbling, abandoned mental asylum, where all semblance of ordinary life begins to break down.

★ ★ ★

Eagle Eye
Friday 4:20 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:20 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:20 7:05
Mon and Tue 4:20 7:05
Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan
Drama • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Jerry Shaw and Rachel Holloman are two strangers thrown together by a mysterious phone call from a woman they have never met. Threatening their lives and family, she pushes Jerry and Rachel into a series of increasingly dangerous situations—using the technology of everyday life to track and control their every move. As the situation escalates, these two ordinary people become the country's most wanted fugitives, who must work together to discover what is really happening.

Nights in Rodanthe
Friday 4:00 7:10 10:00
Saturday 1:15 4:00 7:10 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:00 7:10
Mon and Tue 4:00 7:10
Richard Gere, Diane Lane
Romance, Drama • Rated PG 13

Disaster Movie
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:15 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:15
Mon and Tue 4:15 7:15
Carmen Electra, Matt Lanter
Comedy • Rated PG 13

House Bunny
Friday 4:10 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:25
Mon and Tue 4:10 7:25
Ana Faris, Katharine McPhee
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Death Race
Friday 4:30 7:20 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:20 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:20
Mon and Tue 4:30 7:20
Jason Statham, Tyrese Gibson
Action, Thriller • Rated R

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Teen athlete's killing lamented in Ice Cube video

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The unlikely stars of Ice Cube's new video are the grieving relatives of a 17-year-old high school football star who was shot to death outside his home.

The song "Why Me?" speaks out against senseless violence and gun crime devastating communities. Cube says Jamiel Shaw Jr.'s family is a powerful illustration of the pain that lingers after a murder.

"It just was a tragic, tragic story of why," Cube says. "Young people are dying for no reason all over the world that don't know why. It's ugly, everywhere."

AP
In this Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2008 photo, Ice Cube arrives at the premiere of the film "The Longshots" in Los Angeles.

Shaw had been on track for a college sports scholarship when he was gunned down in March a few yards from his house in a working-class neighborhood south of downtown Los Angeles. His mother was serving in the Army in Iraq at the time.

Pedro Espinoza, an illegal immigrant and suspected gang member who had been released from jail a day earlier on weapons charges, has pleaded not guilty to murder.

Prosecutors say Espinoza drove to Shaw's neighborhood and shot him after asking him about his gang affiliation. Police have said Shaw was never in a gang.

The rap video begins with the tightly framed, sorrow-filled faces of Shaw's parents and aunt. His father recounts a final conversation with his son.

"To drive this home, it was only right to use real family and not use a bunch of actors," Cube says.

His video features photographs of dozens of other crime victims blowing from a tree, then across the sand in the desert. It also depicts a young man in a football jersey being gunned down on a street. As he lays dying, he asks, "Why me homie, why me?"

Espinoza's early release from jail led the Shaws to call for the passage of "Jamiel's Law," which would push Los Angeles police to crack down on illegal immigrant gang members.

Cube says the video is not meant as an endorsement of the move.

"It ain't really a commentary on that," he says. "You've got a person being killed by a person he don't know for a reason he don't know ... Who cares if it was an immigrant or if it was a taxpaying citizen?"

Phelps honored by Baltimore with parade, salute

BALTIMORE (AP)—Michael Phelps was formally welcomed home Saturday with a two-pronged celebration that began with a parade and ended with a fireworks show at historic Fort McHenry.

Phelps was the focal point of the "Parade of Gold", which served as a homecoming for Maryland's Olympic heroes, most notably the swimmer who won a record-setting eight gold medals at the Beijing Games this summer.

An estimated 5,000 people lined the streets of Towson for the parade, according to Baltimore County police.

The festivities then moved to Fort McHenry, birthplace of "The Star-Spangled Banner." Wearing a dress shirt, sports jacket and jeans, Phelps walked onto the makeshift stage to cheers from thousands of people, many of whom arrived several hours before the event.

"There's no better place to be than right here in Baltimore!" he told the crowd.

The "Star-Spangled Salute" started with a recap of Phelps' performance in China and featured a speeches by Gov. Martin O'Malley and Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon. It also included a visit from Phelps' mother, Debbie, who received a big hug from her son.

The ceremony concluded with a fireworks above Baltimore's harbor.

At the parade, Phelps wore sunglasses, jeans, a T-shirt and a brightly colored jacket. He waved to admiring fans from within an open-air military vehicle on a gorgeous autumn afternoon. Those in attendance waited months to pay homage to the Baltimore native, whose haul in China raised to 14 his career gold medals.

Lining the 1 1/2-mile route, many onlookers held red, white, and blue signs. Participants in the parade passed under large American flag strung between the ladders of two fire trucks.

Caroline Dill, 13, was in position with four friends more than three hours before the parade began.

"He's an amazing person because he won eight gold medals and beat Mark Spitz's record," Dill said of Phelps. "Plus, he's from here."

The parade also honored swimmer Katie Hoff—who won three medals at Beijing Games—and Special Olympians and Paralympians.

The city staged a parade for Phelps after the 2004 Games. After his amazing performance in Beijing, the city arranged a two-part affair, at a cost estimated to be $300,000, in anticipation of far bigger crowds this time around.

AP

Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps waves to the crowd during a welcome home parade for him and other Olympic athletes on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008, in Towson, Md.

Delta museum is a tribute to bluesman B.B. King

By SHELIA BYRD
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

INDIANOLA, Miss. (AP)—Translucent images of long ago, of black men and women, backs bent, picking cotton under an unforgiving sun, are artistically displayed on standing glass panels in a museum carved out of an old brick gin mill in the Mississippi Delta.

They're a reminder of those who labored by day in a segregated society. But at night they escaped to Indianola's Church Street to be entertained by a young man later known as B.B. King, who would throw his hat on the ground to catch coins as he conjured devil's music from his guitar.

More than a half-century after King left Indianola in search of fame, the $15 million B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretative Center has opened in his hometown and is as much a tribute to him and his blues music as the culture that inspired it.

King's museum is the latest attraction for the state's blues tourism industry, which ironically thrives because so little has changed in the predominantly black Delta since King, Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker and Robert Johnson got their start there. Enthusiasts from across the nation and overseas vacation in the flatland region, known for fertile soil, its past racial strife and its lingering, unfathomable poverty.

King, an 83-year-old multiple Grammy winner who still plays about 120 gigs a year, says he's honored the story of the blues is being told through the prism of his life.

"It's going to be educational to people, young and old, because it's going to talk about the origins of the blues. I'm just one who carried the baton because it was started long before me," he says.

The details may be different, but the narrative of his life is similar to blues musicians who came before him.

He was born poor and black as Riley B. King in 1925. His parents split, leaving his grandmother to raise him before she died while he was still a young boy. He grew up, and as most blacks did in the Delta, he got a string of plantation jobs. His last was at the cotton gin in Indianola. Somewhere in between, he began developing his playing style, described by some as a mix of Delta, Memphis and Texas sounds.

King started with gospel, but he noticed the spirituals drew more pats than tips at his perch on Church Street.

"I made more Saturday evening than I did all week driving a tractor," King says.

He became known as the Beale Street Blues Boy and then had the nickname Blues Boy, which he shortened to B.B. His career took off in 1948 after performing on a radio program in West Memphis, leading him on a path that would make him an international icon and put him in a class by himself as the only living blues artist with his own museum.

AP

Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps waves to the crowd during a welcome home parade for him and other Olympic athletes on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008, in Towson, Md.

With its sleek, linear design, the 20,000-square-foot museum carved out of the old cotton gin is a convergence of old and new. A touch-screen interactive allows visitors to choose topics of interest, ranging from King's childhood to facts about the Delta Flood of 1927. Music lessons are given through another interactive computer program with King instructing on a video as visitors finger chords on a guitar.

Elsewhere, vinyl blues records by Bobby Blue Bland and Blind Lemon, are hung near decades-old, yellowing contracts signed by musicians, who are now largely forgotten. A Panoram Soundies nearby broadcasts a Cab Calloway performance.

The museum also houses rare photos of Elvis Presley, King's draft card and, of course, Lucille, the storied guitar King used on such hits as "The Thrill Is Gone," "To Know You Is to Love You" and "Sneakin' Around."

The significance of the museum in the blues world cannot be overstated, says Mark Camarigg, publications manager of Living Blues Magazine, believed to be one of the oldest blues magazines in the United States.

"You can't overestimate his impact and what he represents. He's virtually transcended blues music in a lot of people's minds. He's on the level of a Sinatra or Willie Nelson," Camarigg says. "Because of his age, it's a great way for people to get a connection to him. Other than Robert Johnson, he's probably the most important person in blues music."

Organizers are betting on King's appeal to draw $8 from at least 40,000 visitors each year to keep the museum afloat. Connie S. Gibbons, the museum's executive director, says fundraisers also will be held and grants sought to generate money.

"Our mission is education," Gibbons says. "What we've done is use B.B. King's life and his experiences to talk about life in the Delta. It's his values, it's his work ethic, it's his commitment to work excellence that provide the inspiration for the message and the story we want to tell."

Simple precautions prevent deadly, costly house fires

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: The number of fires in the United States has declined over the years, and while that's encouraging, there is still a real cause for concern today. In 2007, eight in 10 people who died in a fire were killed in a home fire.

Practically everyone runs the risk of experiencing a home fire. Most -- if not all -- home fires can be prevented. However, while it may be overwhelming to think about the risk, especially when spending time at home doing routine things like whipping up a meal or relaxing in a warm living room on a brisk fall evening, thinking about the risk and doing something to eliminate it can prevent a home fire from happening in the first place.

This year's Fire Prevention Week public awareness campaign (Oct. 5 to Oct. 11) focuses on preventing home fires and highlights personal actions the public can take to become familiar with fire safety hazards and learn to avoid them. Since 1922, this fire safety observance has brought attention to fire safety issues.

Everyone can eliminate fires with a little extra care. When it's time to prepare a meal or snack, remember that cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Keeping fire safety in mind when cooking, and paying attention to what is on the stovetop or in the oven, can pay off when it comes to reducing the risk of cooking fires.

Most often, these fires start when cooking is left unattended. It's also a good idea to monitor the cooking area to make sure that curtains and other things that can burn are a safe distance away from the stovetop.

Cooking causes the largest number of fires, but more people die in fires involving smoking materials or heating equipment. Taking recommended precautions where they are involved will also help to reduce the risk of people dying in home fires.

Each year, home fires kill approximately 2,500 to 3,000 people, injure another 12,000 to 13,000, and cause between $6 billion and $7 billion in property loss. Don't take the chance of becoming one of these statistics.

JAMES M. SHANNON, PRESIDENT AND CEO,
NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

DEAR JAMES: Every year we hear tragic reports in the news about lives that are lost because of fires in the home, caused by carelessness or lack of preparedness. That's why it's so important to prepare for a fire even before one occurs.

Start by making sure that smoke alarms are installed in bedrooms and outside each sleeping area on every level of your dwelling. And remember, they should be maintained and tested monthly.

It is also vital to develop and practice a home fire escape plan, which includes identifying two ways to exit every room, and practicing the plan with everyone living in your home -- especially children. Being alerted to a fire and being prepared to escape from it will help residents to act more quickly in an emergency. The time saved because everyone knows exactly what to do could literally be life-saving.

Also, if you can afford it, in addition to having smoke alarms, consider installing residential sprinklers for added protection. To learn more about fire prevention and safety, visit www.fireprevention-week.org.

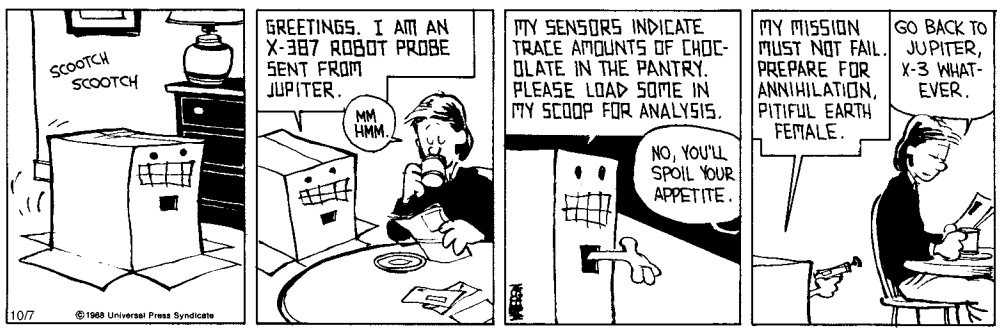
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


SCOOTCH SCOOTCH
GREETINGS. I AM AN X-387 ROBOT PROBE SENT FROM JUPITER.
MM HMM
MY SENSORS INDICATE TRACE AMOUNTS OF CHOCOLATE IN THE PANTRY. PLEASE LOAD SOME IN MY SCOOP FOR ANALYSIS.
NO, YOU'LL SPOIL YOUR APPETITE.
MY MISSION MUST NOT FAIL. PREPARE FOR ANNIHILATION, PITIFUL EARTH FEMALE.
GO BACK TO JUPITER, X-3 WHATEVER.
10/7
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

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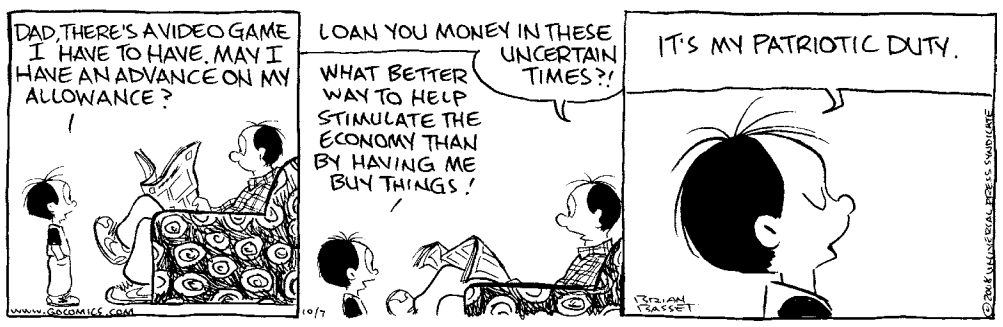
By Bryan Basset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LOAN YOU MONEY IN THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES?!
WHAT BETTER WAY TO HELP STIMULATE THE ECONOMY THAN BY HAVING ME BUY THINGS!
IT'S MY PATRIOTIC DUTY.
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10/7

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

ENERGY COSTS ARE GOING THROUGH THE ROOF.
IN A RELATED STORY, MOTEL 6 SAYS THEY'LL NO LONGER LEAVE THE LIGHT ON FOR US.
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Junk in the in-box
5 Stir-fry pan
8 Greet the villain
12 Operatic show-stopper
13 Rage
14 Reverberate
15 "Yellow" band
17 Horse of a different color?
18 Scoundrel
19 Cognac, e.g.
21 Lieu
24 Brat's stocking stuffer
25 "— Fiction"
26 Make like a caught possum
30 Recede
31 10 million rupees
32 Sticky stuff
33 Jerry Garcia fan
35 Lion's pride?
36 Feeble
37 Autumnal quaff
38 Dramatist Molnar
41 Swindle
42 Satan's field
43 Winter woe
48 Snitch
49 Mess up
50 Squared away
51 War god
52 Urban scurrier
53 Information

DOWN

1 Pouch
2 Expert
3 Have 43-Across, maybe
4 Capricious and reckless
5 Untamed
6 Feast-famine link
7 PC requirement
8 Boston newspaper
9 Pic to click
10 Roe provider
11 PlayStation maker
16 Cushion
20 Bygone comic Martha
21 Raced
22 Toothpaste holder
23 Exile isle
24 Mantle
26 Pulpit VIP
27 "Zounds!"
28 Top-notch
29 Active person
31 "Big Brother" host Julie
34 Resides
35 Chopped finely
37 Cape —
38 Greek cheese
39 Always
40 Anger
41 Wagon
44 Historic time
45 Eggs
46 Allow
47 "CSI" evidence

Solution time: 21 mins.

D	U	D	■	P	R	O	M	S	■	T	E	A
U	R	I	■	R	E	L	A	Y	■	W	I	G
O	N	E	L	I	N	E	R	S	■	O	R	E
■	■	■	E	V	A	■	S	T	A	T	E	S
E	S	T	E	E	M	■	H	E	M	I	■	■
R	A	H	■	T	E	N	■	M	I	M	I	C
G	I	R	L	■	D	O	G	■	D	I	D	O
S	L	E	E	P	■	W	A	G	■	N	O	N
■	■	E	A	R	S	■	G	A	N	G	L	Y
P	U	P	P	E	T	■	A	F	I	■	■	■
A	V	E	■	F	O	U	R	F	L	U	S	H
L	E	A	■	A	R	N	I	E	■	S	K	I
E	A	T	■	B	E	A	N	S	■	E	Y	E

Yesterday's answer 10-7

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
■	■	■	18			■	19	20				
21	22	23			■	24				■	■	■
25				■	26					27	28	29
30			■	31					■	32		
33			34					■	35			
■	■	■	36				■	37				
38	39	40				■	41			■	■	■
42				■	43	44				45	46	47
48				■	49			■	50			
51				■	52				53			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shawn Ashmore, 29; Rachel McAdams, 32; Yo-Yo Ma, 53; Simon Cowell, 49

Happy Birthday: You will be inclined to take things the wrong way, especially in your personal life. Your values will be tested by family and friends but doing what's right will build character and help you move forward. Judge carefully your motives and those of others. Your numbers are 13, 16, 20, 26, 33, 39, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): If you try to do things that you know little about, you will fall short and feel bad. Listen to someone who is doing some good for the community or a group you are involved with. You will learn something new that will be valuable to your work. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Personal and professional partnerships can be altered or developed if you are diplomatic. You'll be surprised how much you can gain just by using common sense, being practical and making the people around you feel good. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Pause before you make a move. It will be difficult to reverse a mistake. You will need to back up your claims with facts. Do not overspend to impress someone. Chances are good he or she will think you are a spendthrift. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You can make a personal and professional change that will better suit your needs and your lifestyle. Don't worry about the little complaints you get at home. Believe in yourself and follow your heart. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't give in to demands or to someone trying to manipulate your time. You have a great way of putting things today, so tell it like it is. Stretching the truth will keep things colorful but don't go too far or someone will be upset. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Put some pressure on the people you need to do their fair share and it will happen. An opportunity will be enhanced by the little extras you implement. Children or youth-oriented activities will give you ideas for helping your community. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Calm down and focus on something you enjoy doing. Don't get dragged into a fight or meddle in someone else's business or overreact to emotional issues. Strive for perfection. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take a turn at something you have ignored or avoided in the past and you will discover you have the skills required to do a good job. Offer your services to a group or organization that has something to offer you in return. Love is taking on a whole new meaning. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't let your stubbornness cause you to make a professional mistake. Don't count on something happening until it actually takes place. Let everyone else make his or her move first. Being last can sometimes be best. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't give in to emotional whims. You are far too practical to get yourself involved in something with too many variables. Talks will be misleading because whoever is handing out the facts is probably not being realistic. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let love cost you financially. Set up a budget that will encourage both you and your loved ones to save so you don't suffer the stress that comes with having difficulty paying your bills. Plan ahead and you will do just fine. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Someone may offer to help you out but, before you accept, consider your colleague's motives. You can bet you will be asked to give something in return and you may not be willing or able to oblige. A change in your financial status is apparent. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are loving, compassionate and willing to make sacrifices. You are an effective communicator and adapt well to change.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9							
3				7				8
			4		5		2	7
1				8	6	4		3
	4						9	
7		9	5	3				2
4	8		3		7			
5				2				4
							5	

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	9	6	5	1	2	8	7	3
5	7	1	4	3	8	9	2	6
8	2	3	6	9	7	5	1	4
2	8	5	1	6	4	7	3	9
3	6	9	2	7	5	4	8	1
7	1	4	3	8	9	6	5	2
6	5	7	9	2	3	1	4	8
9	3	8	7	4	1	2	6	5
1	4	2	8	5	6	3	9	7

Difficulty Level ★ 10/06

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LEGAL DEFENSE STRATEGIES **Solution: 10 letters**

T	S	N	O	I	T	A	G	E	L	L	A	E	L	P
N	E	R	E	A	D	A	T	T	O	R	N	(E)	Y	R
A	C	C	E	Z	I	N	A	G	R	O	(L)	C	E	O
D	N	H	H	W	A	L	I	B	I	(O)	R	A	S	F
N	E	A	H	N	S	N	G	T	(R)	E	S	F	U	A
E	U	R	T	F	I	N	U	L	L	O	U	A	O	L
F	L	G	U	E	I	C	A	I	N	E	S	V	E	S
E	F	E	R	T	E	N	A	S	S	M	P	O	N	E
D	N	S	T	S	I	B	Y	L	S	O	E	R	A	V
E	I	I	O	M	I	R	I	O	I	C	C	A	T	I
T	F	R	I	L	O	Y	R	U	J	T	T	B	N	D
A	P	R	I	E	V	E	N	T	S	U	I	L	O	E
I	C	T	H	A	R	M	O	N	Y	O	D	E	P	N
L	Y	T	I	L	I	B	A	B	O	R	P	G	S	C
S	E	S	S	E	N	T	I	W	E	I	V	N	E	E

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Alibi, Allegations, Answers, Attorney, Charges, Criminal, Defendant, Details, Events, Evidence, False, Favorable, Fitting, Harmony, Influence, Judge, Jury, Organize, Outcome, Plea, Probability, Prosecution, Read, Reasons, Reliability, Role, Spontaneous, Suspect, Technicalities, Theory, Truth, View, Witnesses

Yesterday's Answer: Survival

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Phillies power into NLCS with win over Brewers

MILWAUKEE (AP)—With plenty of power to go with their improved pitching, the Philadelphia Phillies are ready for anything in the NL championship series. Bring on the Los Angeles Dodgers. "I like our chances," Phillies manager Charlie Manuel said Sunday after Philadelphia clinched its first trip to the NLCS since 1993 with a 6-2 victory over the Milwaukee Brewers.

"I think we can hold our own with them. Actually, I think we can beat anybody in the National League, really," he said.

Especially if the Phillies keep playing this way.

After scuffling through the first three games of the NL division series, Philadelphia's offense broke out in a big way against the Brewers in Game 4 of the best-of-five series. Jimmy Rollins led off the game with a home run, Pat Burrell connected twice to break out of his postseason slump and Jayson Werth added a solo shot.

Not to be overlooked, midseason addition Joe Blanton threw a gem, holding the Brewers to one run after an eight-day layoff.

"That took a lot of pressure off of us," Rollins said of his home run. "We were up 1-0, regardless, no matter how the top of the first ended. On the other side, of course, it's going to put a little more pressure on you because their guys are thinking, 'OK, well, we got to answer back.'"

The Brewers never could, and the Phillies rushed the mound at Miller Park after the final out, setting off a raucous celebration. Some Philly fans held up a banner that read, "World Series Here We Come Fightin' Phillies."

In the clubhouse, the Phillies sprayed each other with champagne and beer, with Rollins wearing swimming goggles and a big grin as he searched for unsuspecting—not to mention dry—teammates.

Burrell was doused so many times it'll be days before his sweatshirt dries out, but he never stopped smiling.

"I couldn't be more thrilled. You know, I don't think it's actually sunk in all that much yet," said Burrell, who has been with the Phillies since they drafted him in 1998.

It will later this week, when the Phillies take on their old foe the Dodgers. Game 1 of the NLCS is Thursday in Philadelphia.

The Dodgers and Philadelphia have met for the NL pennant three times before. Los Angeles won in 1977 and '78, while the Phillies took the flag in 1983.

During the regular season, the Phillies and Dodgers each swept a four-game series from the other at home. Philadelphia outscored Los Angeles 43-27 in those eight matchups.

"It's going to be a good series, but I think we can score runs on them," Manuel said. "The way our guys pitch ... I don't see no reason in the world why we can't stay right with them."

The wild-card Brewers, meanwhile, head for an offseason of uncertainty after their first playoff appearance in 26 years. Ace pitcher CC Sabathia, who almost single-handedly salvaged Milwaukee's postseason hopes, is a free agent and isn't expected back.

Ben Sheets, the team's second-best starter, might be gone, too.

Oh, and the Brewers need a manager after firing Ned Yost with 12 games left in the regular season. Dale Sveum took over on an interim basis.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies relief pitcher Brad Lidge, right, celebrates with catcher Carlos Ruiz, left, after ninth-inning baseball action in Game 4 of the National League division series Sunday, Oct. 5, 2008, in Milwaukee.

"We did something we hadn't done for a long time. We have to build on this," said slugger Prince Fielder, who hadn't even been born the last time the Brewers made the playoffs. "I'm happy with the season. Just because we didn't win doesn't take away what we did."

Burrell, Chase Utley and Ryan Howard were a fearsome trio in the regular season for the Phillies, putting up the kind of numbers that make opposing pitchers shudder. Howard made a case for the NL MVP, leading the league in home runs (48) and RBIs (146), and Utley and Burrell added 33 homers each.

But their bats were deafeningly silent in the first three games of the series, as Philadelphia rode outstanding outings by Cole Hamels and Brett Myers to jump out to a 2-0 lead. The Big Three were a dismal 4-for-28 in the first three games, with Burrell going hitless.

The power outage was reminiscent of last year, when they went 5-for-27 while being swept by Colorado. This wasn't the same, Howard and Burrell insisted after Saturday night's loss. Philadelphia's offensive fortunes were about to turn.

Did they ever.

Rollins led off Sunday's game with a homer, turning on a 3-2 pitch from Jeff Suppan and depositing it into the first row of seats in right field. Two innings later, Shane Victorino doubled to left with one out and went to third on a groundout by Utley. The Brewers opted to walk Howard, which wouldn't seem like a bad move, considering Burrell's single in the second was his first hit of the postseason.

"You can't blame the other team for pitching around him, especially in that situation there. The goal there is just to try and get something to hit," said Burrell, who wondered briefly Sunday morning if he'd still be in the lineup after his struggles. "Fortunately, I hung around long enough to get a good pitch to hit."

Burrell lofted Suppan's 2-2 pitch so deep into the left-field stands that Ryan Braun barely bothered to chase it. The Phillies weren't done, either, with Werth hitting a homer to make it 5-0. The sellout crowd at Miller Park booed Suppan, not letting up when Greg Dobbs flied out to end the inning.

Yovani Gallardo, who pitched Game 1 after missing most of the season with a knee injury, relieved Suppan and kept the Phillies in check, not allowing another hit until the seventh inning. But the damage was done by then.

"We never really got the bases loaded, got a bunch of guys on base to break the game open or get back in the game," Sveum said.

Burrell hit another monster homer in the eighth inning off Guillermo Mota.

The Brewers had their own offensive worries, though Blanton can take credit for most of those. The burly right-hander, acquired in July from Oakland, hadn't pitched since Sept. 26 and was making only his second career postseason appearance. But he was in a groove from the minute he took the mound, thanks partly to Rollins' leadoff homer.

"Jimmy came out of the gates and really set the tone, gave us some momentum early," Blanton said. "Then later Pat came through with the big blow. That's huge. That really gives you a lot of confidence pitching."

After a first-inning single by Braun, Blanton retired his next 10 hitters, with only four balls leaving the infield. He finally wore out in the seventh, giving up a leadoff homer to Fielder, who had been 0-for-12 in his first postseason.

The Brewers added another run in the eighth on Braun's two-out RBI single, and the Milwaukee fans - including the blue-collar Miller delivery man who's made it his mission to "take back the High Life"—stood and began clapping their Thunder Stix, sensing a change in momentum.

But Utley made a gorgeous, leaping catch of Fielder's liner to second to end the inning and any hopes the Brewers had.

White Sox 5, Rays 3

At Chicago, the Chicago White Sox beat Tampa Bay 5-3 to trim the Rays' lead in their Major League Baseball playoff series to 2-1 on Sunday.

Game 4 in the best-of-five American League Division Series is on Monday in Chicago, with Gavin Floyd facing Tampa Bay's Andy Sonnanstine.

Less than 24 hours after the Cubs were swept out of the playoffs by the Los Angeles Dodgers, dashing Chicago's hopes for a crosstown World Series, the White Sox avoided elimination before a black-shirted, white towel-waving crowd of 40,142 in their home park.

John Danks, who beat Minnesota 1-0 last Tuesday in the tiebreaker for the AL Central title, shut down the Rays for 6 2-3 innings. The 23-year-old lefty gave up five hits and a run before B.J. Upton hit a long, two-run homer with two outs in the seventh that made it 5-3.

Bobby Jenks pitched the ninth, striking out Carlos Pena with a nasty curveball with a runner on for his fifth postseason save. He had four in 2005, including two in the World Series victory over Houston.

After the Rays won 6-4 and 6-2 at home, the White Sox were revived at U.S. Cellular Field, where they were 54-28 this season.

Matt Garza, pitching on eight days' rest, was popping his fastball in the mid-90s (mid 140s kph) and trying to keep the homer-reliant White Sox off balance by changing speeds. The White Sox caught up with him in the fourth.

Jim Thome opened with double off the center-field fence, Paul Konerko walked and Ken Griffey Jr. hit a sharp single that loaded the bases. Alexei Ramirez, who hit a record four grand slams as a rookie this season, hit a sacrifice fly to center for a 2-1 lead DeWayne Wise followed with a two-run, opposite-field double to left.

Garza lasted six innings, allowing seven hits and five runs.

Angels 5, Red Sox 4, 12 innings

At Boston, Francisco Rodriguez wriggled out of a bases-loaded jam in the 10th inning, Mike Napoli hit two early homers before scoring the go-ahead run in the 12th and Los Angeles avoided another playoff sweep by beating Boston.

Boston had beaten Los Angeles in 11 consecutive AL playoff games, including three-game sweeps in 2004 and 2007 en route to a pair of World Series titles. But the Angels chased Red Sox ace Josh Beckett early, then got six scoreless innings from five relievers to keep them in the game.

Napoli hit a mammoth homer off the Green Monster light stanchion to tie the game 3-all in the third, then gave Los Angeles a lead with his second homer before the Red Sox tied it 4-all in the fifth. It stayed that way until Napoli singled to lead off the 11th, went to second on Howie Kendrick's sacrifice bunt and scored when Erick Aybar blooped a single to left-center.

Jered Weaver, making his first career relief appearance, pitched two scoreless innings for the win. Javier Lopez, the sixth Boston pitcher, took the loss in a game

Winners of a major league-best 100 games in the regular season, Los Angeles was in danger of the shortest possible stay in the playoffs against the wild-card Red Sox. After losing the first two at home, the Angels came to Boston needing to beat Beckett, who has been virtually unbeatable in October.

But Beckett struggled from the start, giving up a double on the first pitch of the game and needing 30 pitches to get through the first half-inning, which took 22 minutes. Meanwhile, the Angels left the bases loaded in the first and fourth—stranding eight in the first four innings.

Mistake-filled fourth equals disaster for Texans

HOUSTON (AP)—Peyton Manning turned a colossal collapse by the Houston Texans into a stunning 31-27 victory for the Indianapolis Colts on Sunday.

The Colts scored 21 points in a late span of 2:10—two touchdowns thanks to fumbles by Texans quarterback Sage Rosenfels—then intercepted Rosenfels' last-ditch comeback attempt to seal one of the worst meltdowns in Houston's young history.

Backup Rosenfels, playing for the ill Matt Schaub, had the winless Texans ahead by 17 points before losing two fumbles and throwing an interception. Texans fans had wanted to see Schaub replaced all season, and Rosenfels was nearly flawless for three quarters.

Manning connected with rookie Tom Santi to make it 27-17 with 4:04 to go. Then Rosenfels was upended, fumbled, and linebacker Gary Brackett returned it 68 yards for 27-24. Rosenfels was stripped of the ball on the next drive, and Manning connected with Reggie Wayne on a 5-yarder with 1:54 remaining for the decisive points.

AP

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning (18) throws a pass as Houston Texans linebacker Morlon Greenwood (56) defends during the fourth quarter of a football game Sunday, Oct. 5, 2008 in Houston.

Dolphins 17, Chargers 10

At Miami, running back Ronnie Brown scored the decisive touchdown from the single-wing formation Miami revived two weeks ago as the Dolphins pulled off consecutive wins for the first time since November 2006.

Brown took a direct snap 11 times on running plays that netted 49 yards and Miami's second touchdown. He ran for 125, while Miami held San Diego star LaDainian Tomlinson to 35 yards on 12 carries. The Dolphins were nursing a seven-point lead when they stopped Tomlinson for no gain on fourth-and-goal at the 1 in the first minute of the final period.

Titans 13, Ravens 10

At Baltimore, Tennessee remained unbeaten thanks to a late touchdown drive and a defense that outperformed Baltimore's top-ranked unit.

Kerry Collins threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Alge Crumpler with 1:56 left. The Titans trailed 10-6 before Collins directed an 11-play, 80-yard scoring drive. The march was aided by a penalty against Baltimore's Terrell Suggs, who was flagged for a blow to Collins' helmet—although the hit appeared to be little more than incidental contact.

Giants 44, Seahawks 6

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Eli Manning threw two touchdowns in a nearly flawless performance, Brandon Jacobs ran for two more and the unbeaten New York Giants scored on their first five possessions in embarrassing Seattle.

The win was the eighth straight for the Giants dating to last year's playoffs, and it gave the Super Bowl champions their best start since 1990, when they also won the NFL title. The Giants rolled up 523 yards in total offense, their most since collecting 524 against Green Bay in 2002.

Falcons 27, Packers 24

At Green Bay, Wisconsin, Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers played hurt and played hard but he was upstaged by Atlanta rookie Matt Ryan, who completed 16 of 26 passes for 194 yards, two touchdowns and an interception against the banged-up Packers.

Falcons receiver Roddy White caught eight passes for 132 yards and a touchdown, while Michael Turner ran for 121 yards and a touchdown as the new-look Falcons earned their first road win of the season and handed the Packers a third straight defeat.

Redskins 23, Eagles 17

At Philadelphia, Clinton Portis ran for 145 yards and one touchdown and wide receiver Antwaan Randle El threw a touchdown pass as Washington made it through the first five games under new coach Jim Zorn better than anyone expected at 4-1.

Shaun Suisham kicked three field goals beyond 40 yards, helping the Redskins overcome a 14-0 deficit against Philadelphia, which couldn't generate much on offense. Brian Westbrook, back after missing a game with an ankle injury, had just 84 total yards.

Panthers 34, Chiefs 0

At Charlotte, North Carolina, DeAngelo Williams had 123 yards rushing and scored three touchdowns as Carolina handed Kansas City its first whitewash in nearly six years.

Kansas City's only highlight in a miserable day was a personal milestone. Tony Gonzalez caught a 6-yard pass from Damon Huard late in the first quarter to move past Shannon Sharpe as the NFL's career leader for yards receiving for a tight end.

Bears 34, Lions 7

At Detroit, Kyle Orton set career highs in yards passing and completions while throwing for two touchdowns. He was 24-of-34 for 334 yards and improved to 3-0 against winless Detroit.

Chicago built a 31-0 lead before rookie Kevin Smith scored for the Lions midway through the third quarter.

Cardinals 41, Bills 17

At Glendale, Arizona, Buffalo lost quarterback Trent Edwards to a concussion and, emphatically, its first game of the season. The offense fumbled three times in Bills territory and the defense collapsed, conceding 373 yards.

Arizona rookie Tim Hightower had a pair of touchdown runs and Kurt Warner threw to Larry Fitzgerald twice for scores as the Cardinals remained unbeaten at home.

Broncos 16, Buccaneers 13

At Denver, Jay Cutler guided a patient Denver offense over Tampa Bay. Brandon Stokley hauled in Cutler's pass in the right flat and followed Brandon Marshall's big block for a 10-yard touchdown and Matt Prater kicked three field goals for Denver.

Former Bronco passer Brian Griese was hit by Champ Bailey and sidelined with an injured shoulder. But replacement Jeff Garcia was also hounded and knocked down repeatedly.

Cowboys 31, Bengals 22

At Irving, Texas, Dallas led winless Cincinnati 17-0 after only three drives, but ended up barely escaping with the win. The Bengals rallied to within 17-16 then 24-22 and missed the 2-point conversion.

Tony Romo was 14-of-23 for a season-low 176 yards, but threw three touchdown passes—two in the fourth quarter—while Cincinnati quarterback Carson Palmer returned after missing a game with a sore elbow and was 23-of-39 for 217 yards with two touchdown passes to T.J. Houshmandzadeh.

Patriots 30, 49ers 21

At San Francisco, New England returned to form with Randy Moss' dynamic 66-yard touchdown catch and Kevin Faulk's score on a direct snap. Faulk rushed for two scores, Matt Cassel had 259 yards passing and the Patriots won in San Francisco for the first time in franchise history.

Steelers 26, Jaguars 21

At Jacksonville, Florida, Ben Roethlisberger threw for 309 yards and three touchdowns, helping Pittsburgh (4-1) overcome its offensive woes and snap a four-game losing streak against Jacksonville (2-3).

Roethlisberger finished 26-of-41, rebounding from an interception on his third pass that Rashean Mathis returned 72 yards for a score. Roethlisberger's perfect 8-yard fade pass to Hines Ward in the corner of the end zone put the Steelers ahead 26-21 with 1:53 remaining.

Rookie Johnson stuns Allenby at Turning Stone

VERONA, N.Y. (AP)—When the final round of the Turning Stone Resort Championship began, six players near the top of the leaderboard had a chance at that elusive first PGA Tour victory. Rookie Dustin Johnson was the last man standing.

The long-hitting Johnson birdied the final two holes Sunday, sinking an 8-foot putt on the final hole to beat Australian Robert Allenby by one shot.

"I started off the year really well and then I don't really know what happened," said the 24-year-old Johnson, who had two top-10s in his first four starts and then missed nine cuts and withdrew from two other events. "Me and my coach sat down about a month ago and set some goals. I practiced hard and tried to get my game back."

It's back.

Johnson (69) finished at 9-under 279 and pocketed $1.08 million of the $6 million purse, the richest of the Fall Series. That catapulted him from 128th to 41st on the PGA money list. The top 125 at the end of the year retain full exemption for 2009.

"It's kind of hard to explain. I haven't grasped everything yet," said Johnson, who had to sit and wait patiently until third-round co-leader Charles Howell III, the last man with a chance, hit his third shot at 18. "Right now I feel pretty good. I'm obviously very, very excited. Hopefully, it'll hit me a little bit later. I'll probably have to sit down and re-evaluate my goals."

Allenby (70), seeking his fifth victory and first since 2001, had a chance to tie at 18, but his 12-foot putt for birdie stopped inches short of the hole.

"I left everything short," said Allenby, who needed 126 putts on the four rounds. "Yesterday, I probably had the worst putting round of my life. I just lost my nerve with the putter. I tried to regain it, took the putter home last night and slept with it. All you can do is just give it your best."

Mathew Goggin (69), Steve Allan (69), Woody Austin (69), Davis Love III (70), Ryuji Imada (69), Robert Garrigus (69), and Howell (73) all finished at 7 under. Nick O'Hern (68), Pat Perez (70), Joe Ogilvie (70), and Jeff Overton (73) were another shot back.

Tag Ridings (79), who was tied with Howell for the lead at 8 under entering the day, self-destructed with three bogeys, a triple bogey, and one double bogey in an eight-hole span. Ridings, Kyle Thompson, Overton, Davis, and Jason Day (75) also were seeking their first win.

The back nine at the 7,482-yard Atunyote Golf Club course has a 13-acre lake and three other water hazards that make four of the holes difficult, and Johnson found that out. After making birdie at the par-5 12th hole to move to 8 under and within a shot of Allenby, he drove into the water along the right fairway at No. 13 and made bogey.

Allenby, meanwhile, stayed out of trouble all day until his drive at the par-4 15th hole sailed into the right trees. He hit his second shot into a greenside bunker, blasted a terrific shot out to 9 feet but missed the par putt and never managed to get that stroke back.

Overton, who led the first two rounds, tied Allenby at 8 under with a 16-foot birdie putt that just dropped in the hole at 14, but his rally ended quickly. He missed 5-foot par putts at both 16 and 17 to end his chances.

Home Boys, Voyagers stake lead in 8-Ball tonight

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Primo's Home Boys and PTI Voyagers will stake the lead in their respective divisions against separate rivals at the resumption of the 2008 Budweiser Open 8-Ball League tonight.

The Home Boys, who are currently pacing the Obyan Division with an 18-10 win-loss record, will host Coral Reef Barracuda starting at 8pm.

The Barracudas are in fifth place with a 12-16 win-loss mark.

Four other teams that are still capable of catching the Home Boys' record will continue their campaign.

Third-running Krystal Perfect Spotters will visit fourth-ranked USSP Fotten Palau.

The Perfect Spotters carry a 15-13 card, while Fotten Palau tots a 14-14 card after last week's matches.

Second-running D'Pirates Huwa (16-12) will host cellar-dweller VFW Warriors (9-19).

D'Pirates is capable of regaining the lead with a victory against the Warriors and hope that the Home Boys will drop their game to the Barracudas.

But the Warriors should not be taken lightly as they are also raring to make up for lost ground following a string of losses.

Another exciting match-up is brewing up in the Agingan Division, as pacesetting PTI Voyagers (22-2) will face Islander Rent A Car.

Islander is tied with Saipan-Cell Hustlers in second to third places with identical 18-10 win-loss marks.

Gametime is also set at 8pm at Round Two Bar and Grill.

The last time these two teams met at Jonny's Bar, the host Voyagers won, 3-1, for their seventh consecutive victory since the start of the tournament.

The Hustlers are also gunning for a win as they try to catch up with the Voyagers when they meet unpredictable USSP Wat-Ever at home.

Wat-Ever continued to improve from its earlier so-so performance. The team is now in solo fourth place with 9-15 as it just came off a 2-2 decision versus Islander in their previous assignment.

The other game of the night will be between the last two teams in the Agingan division, as fifth-ranked Godfather's Rock Steady (9-19) visits sixth-placer Coral Reef Shark Attack (4-24). Shark Attack has never won against a team this season.

Win-loss records are based on the number of rounds won or lost during a match.

Godfather's halved points with the Hustlers in their last game last Sept. 30, while Shark Attack suffered another devastating 0-4 defeat to the Voyagers on the same night.

Acme Roofing seeks 4-0 mark vs Doh-Fins

Acme Roofing will try to keep its record clean when it faces MHS 67 Doh-Fins at the resumption of games today in the 2008 Miller Lite Four-Person Beach Volleyball League at the Pacific island Club sand court.

The team of Larry Sheri, Jazz Roskow, Rob Jordan, Luthor Taylor, J.R. Ngeskebei, Elizabeth Henke, Jenni Brown, and Dana McFadden are currently setting the pace after winning their first three assignments.

They opened up their campaign with a 13-21, 21-8, 21-19 win over Thai One On last Sept. 23 and followed that up with a masterful 21-17, 21-17, 12-21 against Enyophace two days later.

Doh-Fins hopes to score an upset as it aims for its first win in the league and try to take advantage of a rusty Acme Roofing team, which was on a bye in the last playing date, Oct. 2.

On its last playing schedule last Sept. 30, Acme Roofing won by forfeiture at the expense of Champ-on whose players showed-up but did not have a lady player, which disqualified them from playing.

Acme Roofing earned points in the process, 21-0, 21-0, 21-0.

Tournament rules require a team to enter a lady player in a game.

Accordingly, every set won by a team has a bearing. This is especially so in breaking ties on win-loss records.

The encounter between Acme Roofing and the ninth-running Doh Fins (0-2) is set to start at 7:30pm.

Before that, Karakuchi will test the mettle of MHS Oakies at 5:30pm, while MHS Peers will tangle with MHS Serves Up! At 6:30pm.

In the nightcap at 8:30pm, Off Twice will meet Thai One On. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

CNMI

From Page 28

ty in the region were elated over the good news, but the former's happiness was short lived, as two of the CNMI netters interested in going to the Cook Islands are ineligible to play under the eligibility rules upheld by the Pacific Games Council.

Kana Aikawa and Ji Hoon Heo are non U.S. citizens with the former holding Canadian and Japanese passports and the latter having a Korean passport.

"I am really disappointed with the eligibility rules and feel sorry for our tennis players who are interested to play in the Mini Games," Race said.

"We could have a good women's doubles team in Kana (Aikawa) and Mayuko (Arriola). We also have a strong and young pair in the men's doubles in Ji Hoon (Heo) and Tim (Quan)," he added.

Quan and Arriola are U.S. citizens, but Race said that right now NMITA is not keen on sending players only for the singles competition.

"We could have considered the idea of having men's and women's doubles team playing in the Cook Islands. But with these eligibility rules, we won't be sending any athletes to the Mini Games next year," the CNMI coach said.

Race was the player-coach of the CNMI Tennis Team what competed in the 2005 Mini Games in Palau. Aikawa, Quan, and Montgomery joined Race on the team.

In the 2007 South Pacific Games, Aikawa was interested to compete in Apia, Samoa but was ineligible due to the "only U.S. citizens" policy.

Before the Apia Games, Aikawa won the women's singles, mixed doubles, and women's doubles gold in the 2006 Micronesian Games which Saipan hosted.

Aikawa and Heo developed their tennis skills here since they were kids and represented the CNMI in various off-island competitions.

Heo played for the CNMI and the North Pacific Team in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji for the past two years. He also represented the CNMI in tournaments in New Caledonia, Australia, Japan, and Korea. Next month, he will be joining a Junior ITF event in the Philippines.

BROTHERHOOD

From Page 28

said he has confidence in his players.

"We have a good chance [to win the title]," he said.

Brotherhood closed out its regular season with 10-1 record, while PTI was second with 9-2 win-loss slate.

It was the second loss of Man Amigos for the day.

In the other game make-up games in the men's division last Sunday, SaiPal defeated Amigos, 8-3, while Ready Mix shattered Choll Aces, 13-2.

Meanwhile, the Hitters posted a one-sided 9-3 victory over Ohn Sakau at start of playoffs in the women's side.

The Hitters established a 9-0 lead at the end of full five innings on the way to an easy win.

Pamela Reungel and Tracy Uchau scored two runs each, while Vanessa Mobel, Ank Ngirbeduul, Alana Aguon, Didil Temarcel, and ace pitcher Felisa Brel chipped in one each for the Hitters.

Erlinda Naputi, Doriana Emul, and Julie Palacios scored one each in the top of the sixth in Ohn Sakau's losing effort.

It was also a lopsided score in the other playoff match with Sakudi prevailing over Atu Asi.

LARGE

From Page 28

Manufacturers of the bigger ball from Korea and China theorized that the use of such a ball could improve a player's performance.

The 40mm ball weighs in at 2.7 grams, compared to the old 38mm ball at 2.5 grams.

Accordingly, the bigger size makes the ball travel four to eight percent slower and reduces the effect of spin on the ball about 10 to 13 percent.

Proponents of the game also theorized that the intent was to make the rallies longer and in turn make the game more exciting for players and spectators.

Some of the Japanese players who are coming to the CNMI are former world table tennis players, including a 53-year-old Katsuyuki Abe. He was a 10-time singles champion in Large Ball.

There will be a doubles competition and team competition with the latter composed of three players with each player will see action in 12 total matches.

The team that wins five matches will be declared the winner.

Gurung said that the much-awaited competition is a special event for the 10th Annual Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament to be held the following two days Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 11 and 12, at the same venue. Games start at 8am.

The separate event will be a regular table tennis competition using the smaller or standard ball among players from Saipan, Tinian, Guam, and Japan (men only).

As host, Saipan and Tinian will have the privilege to enter two teams each to play in singles, doubles, and team competitions.

OCEANIA

From Page 28

Rangamar said in the past coaches needed to go off-island to get certified, but now it will be very convenient for them to take the coaching course online.

The course will have eight lessons and will cover 23 units. At the end of each lesson, participants will be given assignments and once they completed them, they will move to the next lesson.

Terry West, president of the Oceania Athletics Coaches Association and a Level 5 coach will facilitate the course and will communicate with participants regularly to make sure every lesson is well understood.

"This is a great opportunity for coaches to complete an accredited course without going 'off-island' and at their own pace. If successful we would hope to offer this each year to a different set of coaches both male and female," said West in a statement posted at OAA's website.

Once the eight lessons are completed, West will assign a formal assessment task to each participant.

Participants will be asked to perform certain tasks on their own island or at a competition.

Although selected coaches are expected to complete the course in one year, the time table for the completion is still flexible.

Each participant will be given the following resource materials: Coaches Resource Folder, Coaching Manual, ATFCA Orientation to Coaching Handbook, and the IAAF Handbook.

For more information on the coaching course, contact West at tjmwest@bigpond.net.au.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	4	1	0	.800	126	104
New England	3	1	0	.750	79	79
N.Y. Jets	2	2	0	.500	115	116
Miami	2	2	0	.500	79	74

South

Tennessee	5	0	0	1.000	115	56
Indianapolis	2	2	0	.500	83	94
Jacksonville	2	3	0	.400	100	111
Houston	0	4	0	.000	83	130

North

Pittsburgh	4	1	0	.800	103	79
Baltimore	2	2	0	.500	75	56
Cleveland	1	3	0	.250	46	78
Cincinnati	0	5	0	.000	74	118

West

Denver	4	1	0	.800	149	130
San Diego	2	3	0	.400	148	129
Oakland	1	3	0	.250	78	101
Kansas City	1	4	0	.200	65	131

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	4	0	0	1.000	127	49
Washington	4	1	0	.800	109	98
Dallas	4	1	0	.800	151	111
Philadelphia	2	3	0	.400	127	97

South

Carolina	4	1	0	.800	114	70
Tampa Bay	3	2	0	.600	114	94
Atlanta	3	2	0	.600	117	107
New Orleans	2	2	0	.500	111	100

North

Chicago	3	2	0	.600	128	87
Green Bay	2	3	0	.400	133	128
Minnesota	1	3	0	.250	71	82
Detroit	0	4	0	.000	66	147

West

Arizona	3	2	0	.600	147	120
San Francisco	2	3	0	.400	115	127
Seattle	1	3	0	.250	83	124
St. Louis	0	4	0	.000	43	147

Yesterday's Games

Chicago 34, Detroit 7
Miami 17, San Diego 10
Atlanta 27, Green Bay 24
N.Y. Giants 44, Seattle 6
Tennessee 13, Baltimore 10
Indianapolis 31, Houston 27
Carolina 34, Kansas City 0
Washington 23, Philadelphia 17
Denver 16, Tampa Bay 13
Dallas 31, Cincinnati 22
Arizona 41, Buffalo 17
New England 30, San Francisco 21
Pittsburgh 26, Jacksonville 21

TURNING STONE RESORT CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

VERONA, New York (AP)–Scores Sunday in the Turning Stone Resort Championship, a $6 million (Euro 4.3 million) U.S. PGA Tour event at 7,482-yard, par-72 Atunyote Golf Club:

FINAL

Dustin Johnson	72-68-70-69	279
Robert Allenby	71-68-71-70	280
Ryuji Imada	72-71-69-69	281
Mathew Goggin	71-70-71-69	281
Steve Allan	68-74-70-69	281
Woody Austin	74-69-69-69	281
Robert Garrigus	72-72-68-69	281
Davis Love III	75-70-66-70	281
Charles Howell III	71-68-69-73	281
Nick O'Hern	71-72-71-68	282
Pat Perez	71-72-69-70	282
Joe Ogilvie	75-69-68-70	282
Charles Warren	73-71-67-71	282
Jeff Overton	67-69-73-73	282
Steve Elkington	73-71-70-69	283
Vaughn Taylor	75-69-69-70	283
Mark Hensby	70-69-72-72	283
Brian Davis	71-69-69-74	283
J.J. Henry	74-72-71-67	284
Bo Van Pelt	70-73-71-70	284
Jason Day	69-69-71-75	284
George McNeill	73-71-72-69	285
James Driscoll	76-71-68-70	285
Brad Elder	71-69-72-73	285
Ryan Moore	74-74-69-69	286
Kevin Stadler	71-75-69-71	286
Carlos Franco	69-78-70-70	287
John Senden	73-71-73-70	287
Brandt Jobe	71-75-71-70	287
Michael Allen	68-74-74-71	287
Richard Johnson	76-71-69-71	287
Harrison Frazar	72-70-72-73	287
Troy Matteson	70-73-71-73	287
Sean O'Hair	73-71-70-73	287
Tag Ridings	69-68-71-79	287
Nathan Green	73-75-70-70	288
Tim Wilkinson	73-71-74-70	288
Steve Marino	75-73-68-72	288
Patrick Sheehan	72-76-68-72	288
Kent Jones	70-74-72-72	288
Briny Baird	70-72-71-75	288
Kyle Thompson	71-69-69-79	288
Casey Wittenberg	74-74-72-69	289
Chad Collins	72-75-72-70	289
Olin Browne	72-71-75-71	289
Todd Demsey	72-71-75-71	289
Scott Sterling	70-76-72-71	289
Joe Durant	71-75-71-72	289
Tommy Gainey	71-74-70-74	289
Mathias Gronberg	74-74-71-71	290
Michael Bradley	75-73-70-72	290
Kevin Na	72-71-75-72	290
Bob Sowards	74-69-72-75	290
Shane Bertsch	75-71-69-75	290
Carl Pettersson	73-73-73-72	291
Y.E. Yang	74-72-72-73	291
Peter Lonard	78-67-73-73	291
Bob Estes	72-74-72-73	291
Rich Beem	74-74-69-74	291
Paul Claxton	70-72-71-78	291
Steve Flesch	74-73-73-72	292
Cody Freeman	74-72-74-72	292
Brett Rumford	73-71-74-74	292
Johnson Wagner	73-73-70-76	292
Tom Pernice, Jr.	72-73-69-78	292
Parker McLachlin	73-75-72-73	293
Nick Watney	77-70-73-73	293
Joey Sindelar	77-71-72-74	294
Brad Adamonis	74-73-72-75	294
Ryan Armour	74-74-70-76	294
Dicky Pride	76-71-71-76	294

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

7th FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament

Photos From www.fibaoceania.com

Participating teams during the opening ceremony of the biennial caging.

CNMI and Tahiti prepare for the start of their game.

A Tahiti player loses control of the ball, as two Guam defenders go after her shot.

Fiji's Meleane Moce collides with a Guam defender during their bronze medal game.

Australia's Hugh Greenwood, right, looks for a teammate, as he is trapped by a Fiji defender at the sideline.

An Australia Opals player drives to the basket, while a Fiji defender looks on during their game in Pool A of the women's division competition in the 7th FIBA Oceania Tournament at the University of Guam Fieldhouse last week.

CNMI's Nicole Lebria, 8, looks for a teammate to pass the ball to, as she is pressured by a Palau defender during their battle for seventh place match.

Tahiti's Maui Tepa challenges Papua New Guinea defenders during their pool play game.

Tahiti's Maruki Dury, right, pulls up for a jumper against Guam's Domonic Sablan.

Australia's Coran Wroe, right, dribbles past a Tahiti defender during their championship game.

Home Boys, Voyagers stake lead in 8-Ball tonight
Primo's Home Boys and PTI Voyagers will stake the lead in their respective divisions against separate rivals at the resumption of the 2008 Budweiser Open 8-Ball League tonight.
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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Phillies power into NLCS with win over Brewers
With plenty of power to go with their improved pitching, the Philadelphia Phillies are ready for anything in the NL championship series. Bring on the Los Angeles Dodgers.
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CNMI netters will skip '09 Mini Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI netters will not be competing in the 2009 South Pacific Mini Games in Cook Islands after all.

This after Michael A White, president of the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association, announced during NMASA's monthly meeting Thursday night that the Pacific Games Council will allow only U.S. citizens or citizens of the islands/nations they are representing to participate in the quadrennial event in Rarotonga.

CNMI coach and Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association vice president Jeff Race said they will not be sending their tennis players to the Cook Islands.

About two weeks ago, Race told *Saipan Tribune* that several CNMI netters are interested in competing in next year's Mini Games after tennis was added in the calendar of events in the quadrennial meet.

Early this year, tennis was not on the list due to lack of facility in Rarotonga, but Cook Islands tennis officials worked for its inclusion late last month after body building made a last minute pullout.

Race and the rest of the tennis communi-

See CNMI on Page 26

Heo

Aikawa

Brotherhood bags pennant in Belau Slow-pitch League

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Five members of BASA softball League pennant champion Team Brotherhood, manager Bill Limes, Jerry Ayuyu, Kent Kalen, Bernard Kileleman, and Tito Laniyo, celebrate with their fans.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Team Brotherhood won their first ever pennant by beating Man Amigos, 9-1, in the final playing date of the men's division of the 2008 Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow-pitch League last Sunday at the Dandan Ballfield.

J.J. Laniyo, Jerry Ayuyu, Benji Tagabuel, and Myron Sablan scored two runs each, while Ken Kalen reached home plate once to lead the offense in the win that gave Brotherhood the No. 1 spot in the playoff round.

James Fleming scored Man Amigos' lone run in the top of the sixth inning.

Brotherhood will meet PIC at the start of the best-of-three playoffs this Sunday, Oct. 12.

Ayuyu pitched for Brotherhood and allowed 10 hits but kept his ground by limiting Man Amigos to a mere run.

On offense, Ayuyu scored the game's lone homerun in the bottom of first inning. He also tripled in the fifth and reached home plate on a single by second baseman Julian Camacho.

Ayuyu said this is the best finish for the team in the Belau League.

As a team, Brotherhood did not join the past three years. They won their last championship two years ago in the Crime Stoppers tournament.

Asked about their chances in the playoffs, Ayuyu said there are a lot of good teams this year.

Every team's performance in a game is different, he said, adding that there are times a player is off in a particular game.

"The guys attitude in a game is crucial," he said.

Team manager Bill Limes, for his part,

See BROTHERHOOD on Page 26

Oceania Athletics offering free Level 1 coaching course

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Oceania Athletics Coaches Association will offer a free Australian Track and Field Coaches Associations Level 1 course by correspondence and online next year.

The course is open to women coaches from 21 members of the Oceania Athletics Association, but only five slots are available.

Each federation must nominate coaches, who should be active in the association and is not older than 40 years old.

The CNMI is an OAA member and is interested in the course.

Northern Marianas Athletics official Elias Rangamar said he will talk with other NMA officers to discuss the course.

"Maybe we can make an announcement for those interested to take the course. I am sure we have teachers/coaches who would want to take advantage of this free course." Rangamar said.

See OCEANIA on Page 26

Large Ball Ping-Pong tourney to kick off on Tinian

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Japanese players are scheduled to arrive this week and participate in the first-ever Large Ball Ping Pong Tournament that kicks off this Friday, Oct. 10, at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

The opening ceremonies for the daylong competition will start at 8am.

Budhi Gurung, vice president of the organizing Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association, said the 12 Japanese players—eight women and four men—would be forming four teams.

They will play against two teams from Saipan and one from host Tinian.

Large Ball Ping Pong is becoming a worldwide competition. Gurung said it is very popular game in Japan.

"The fun is spreading throughout the world," he said.

Instead of the regular or a smaller ball, an oversized 44mm ball, a taller 17.25cm net, and a blade that has pips out rubber with sponge is used.

Gurung said this kind of ball promotes longer rallies, less spin, and slower speed.

See LARGE on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Table tennis players of the Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association and Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino ping-pong club pose for a photo in their most recent Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament on Tinian.